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A SKETCH

OF THE

LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICES

OF

William Henry Harrison,

WITH AN APPENDIX CONTAINING

NEW YORK

The Letters of the Aids-de-camp John Chambers, John Speed Smith, Charles  
S. Todd and John O'Fallon. — Extracts from Public Documents.  
Statistical Tables, &c. &c. &c.

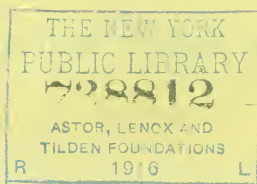
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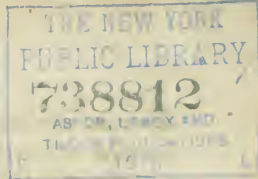
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## WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.

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WHEN a man has been selected from among the people, as a suitable candidate for any important office in their gift, it is no more than common justice to all parties, that his fellow citizens should be supplied with some authentic information respecting his past life. It is right and proper that they should know what services he has rendered to his country, what public stations he has held, and with what fidelity and uprightness he has discharged the duties of those offices, with which he has been entrusted—that, furnished with this information, they may be enabled to form a fair estimate of his abilities, and of his usefulness and integrity in his future career. At the present time, no one before the public occupies more general attention than William H. Harrison. We therefore think it an acceptable service to those, who are not familiar with the life of this distinguished man, to place before them the following brief sketch of his biography and public services. We offer them an honest outline of plain facts gathered from the most authentic sources. Should any of our readers desire more particular information, or wish for detailed evidence of the historic truth of this outline, we refer them to public documents connected with the events here recorded; to Butler's History of Kentucky, and M'Afee's History of the late war; and to the excellent biographical works of Mr. Dawson and Judge Hall—from which sources, this sketch has been principally drawn.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, (who has recently been placed before the American people as a candidate for the Presidency, by one of the most respectable bodies of men ever assembled in the United States, for such a purpose,) was born in Virginia on the 9th of February, 1773. His father, Benjamin Harrison, was one of the patriots of the Revolution. He was a very distinguished member of the first Congress of the United States, which met at Philadelphia in 1774, and was one of the most conspicuous of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He afterwards rendered

important services to his country by his energetic and patriotic measures as Governor of his native state, Virginia. This eminent patriot died in 1791; leaving his son, William, under the guardianship of his friend, the celebrated Robert Morris.

Young Harrison was educated at Hampden Sydney College; and, by the advice of his friends, turned his attention to the study of medicine. But about the period when he had completed his education, soon after the death of his father, the increased and barbarous hostilities of the Indians on our northwestern borders, began to excite a feeling of indignation throughout the whole country. In this general excitement our young student participated so warmly, that he resolved to relinquish his professional pursuits, and join the army destined to the defence of the Ohio frontier.

The war in this part of our country was then assuming a very alarming aspect. The Indian tribes, who had been in the service of Great Britain, during our Revolutionary struggle, had not yet laid down the tomahawk; but still persisted in their ruthless hostilities, and in the almost daily commission of their savage atrocities. From the year 1783, when Great Britain acknowledged our independence, and war with the mother country ceased, up to the year 1791, it was estimated that more than fifteen hundred of our hardy borderers had fallen victims to the rifle and scalping knife of their savage foes. Our northwestern frontier presented an appalling scene of rapine, conflagration, and wanton destruction of life and property. Many of our border settlements had been crushed in their infancy, and all had been retarded in their growth. Expedition after expedition, fitted out to oppose them, had met with the most disheartening losses; and finally, a gallant army under Brigadier General Harmer, which had been sent expressly to chastise these savages, had been signally defeated by them, and almost annihilated. Of the few experienced officers who escaped from Harmer's defeat, nearly all, worn out with the fatigues of a service so harassing, and shrinking from a warfare of so dangerous and barbarous a nature, had resigned their commissions; and a feeling of dismay began to prevade the whole community.

Such was the gloomy aspect of affairs, when the ardent and generous patriotism of young Harrison prompted him to give up the comforts and luxuries that surrounded him at home, and peril his life in defence of his fellow countrymen.

He received the commission of an ensign in the United States' artillery, in the autumn of the year 1791; and hastened immedi-

ately to join his regiment, which was then stationed at Fort Washington. He arrived at that post a few days after the unfortunate defeat of General St. Clair, near the Miami villages, by the confederated Indians under the command of the celebrated chief, Little Turtle. This disastrous defeat, in which St. Clair's army was destroyed, with the loss of nearly a thousand men, killed or taken prisoners, left the whole of our northwestern frontier exposed to the ravages of a merciless enemy, and added greatly to the consternation before existing.

In this state of things, our government saw the necessity of adopting immediate and efficient means to put an end to this savage conflict. Another army was promptly raised, and the command given to General Anthony Wayne—a gallant and skillful officer, who had earned a brilliant reputation in the Revolutionary War. Wayne's Legion, as his army was called in the new organization, assembled at Pittsburgh, in the summer of 1792; and in the ensuing month of November, they left that place, and went into winter quarters, at Legionville, on the Ohio, twenty-two miles below Pittsburgh.

About this time, Harrison was promoted to a lieutenancy; and shortly after, he joined Wayne's Legion. His fearlessness and energy, with his strict attention to discipline, soon attracted the notice of his commander-in-chief, himself a bold and daring soldier and a rigid disciplinarian; and General Wayne, not long after his arrival, selected him as one of his aids-de-camp.

We have entered thus minutely into this detail, because we wish to point out at how early an age, and in what trying times, young Harrison was thought worthy of honorable distinction.

Lieutenant Harrison acted as aid to General Wayne during the whole of the ensuing campaigns; and his bravery and gallant conduct throughout were such, that he was repeatedly officially noticed in terms of the highest encomium. The war was conducted by General Wayne with all the cool daring of a veteran soldier, and the sagacity of a prudent general—until finally, on the 20th of August, 1794, he fought the bloody and desperate battle of the Miami, in which the confederated Indians, with their allies, were totally defeated. Their heavy losses in this battle so disheartened the Indians, that, a few months after, they entered into negotiations for a treaty of peace, giving hostages for their good faith: and thus, with the close of this war, were extinguished what may be considered the last embers of our revolutionary struggle. In



his dispatch to the Secretary of War, after this decisive victory, General Wayne, in mentioning those whose good conduct made them conspicuous on this occasion, says—"My faithful and gallant aids-de-camp, Captains De Butts and T. Lewis, and *Lieutenant Harrison*, with the Adjutant General, Major Mills, rendered the most important service, by communicating my orders in every direction, and by their conduct and bravery exciting the troops to press for victory."

Soon after this battle, Lieutenant Harrison received the commission of a Captain, and was placed in the command of Fort Washington—the most important station on the western frontier. He remained in the army till the close of the year 1797, when, as there was no longer any opportunity to serve his country in the field, he resigned his commission, to commence his career of civil services. He was almost immediately appointed secretary, and *ex-officio*, lieutenant-governor of the Northwestern Territory; which then embraced the whole extent of our country lying northwest of the Ohio river—thus receiving the first civil appointment in that part of our country which he had periled his life to defend.

While in this station he entered so warmly into the interests of the people, and his intelligence and the kindness and urbanity of his manners rendered him so popular, that when, in the following year, they became entitled to representation in the councils of the nation, they almost unanimously elected him their first delegate to Congress. Mr. Harrison was, at this time, about twenty-six years of age.

He took his seat in the House of Representatives, at the first session of the sixth Congress, in December, 1799. There were then in Congress some of the ablest and most enlightened statesmen, and some of the most eloquent men, our country has ever produced. Yet in this severe ordeal, the abilities and manly energies of Mr. Harrison soon commanded universal respect. At this period, the all-engrossing subject in the West, and one in which our whole country had a deep interest, was the sale of our public lands. The manner in which these lands had been hitherto disposed of, had created great dissatisfaction among the people. They had been sold only in large tracts; the smallest of which included, at least, four thousand acres. Our hardy yeomanry, with limited pecuniary means, were thus shut out from all chance of competition with wealthy speculators and grasping monopolists, in the purchase of these lands—the poorer emigrants were becoming

disheartened at the chilling prospects before them, and the settlement of the new country was greatly retarded. Fully aware of the impolicy and injustice of this state of things, and true to the trust confided in him, Mr. Harrison's earliest legislative efforts were made to overthrow this pernicious system. He aroused the attention of Congress to the consideration of this important subject, and evinced so intimate an acquaintance with the facts and business details connected with it, that he was appointed chairman of a committee raised to examine into and report on the existing mode of disposing of the public lands. After a proper investigation, he presented a report, accompanied by a bill, the principal object of which was to reduce the size of the tracts of public land offered for sale, to such a smaller number of acres as would place them within the reach of actual settlers.

This masterly report, which was the joint production of himself and Mr. Gallatin, together with the great ability and eloquence with which he defended his bill from the powerful opposition it encountered in the House, gained Mr. Harrison a reputation rarely attained by so young a statesman. The bill was carried triumphantly in the House, and finally, after some amendments, passed the Senate. The result was, that the public lands, instead of being offered only in large tracts, of which four thousand acres was the smallest size, were now to be sold in alternate sections and half sections—the former containing six hundred and forty, and the latter three hundred and twenty acres each. The point gained was of immense importance, since, from the low price of these lands, and the small amount of purchase money required to be paid, they were now within the reach of nearly all the poorer emigrants and actual settlers, who felt a natural desire to own the fee simple of their homes, and of the lands they subdued from the wilderness. Thousands of the hardy and industrious farmers of our northern and middle States, and many of the poorer planters of the south, availed themselves of the fair field which was now opened for emigration and enterprise; and we may justly consider this happy result, which Mr. Harrison was so instrumental in producing, as one of the leading causes of the rapid settlement and prosperity of our western country.

In the year 1800, the Northwestern Territory was divided.—That part of the old territory, included within the present boundaries of Ohio and Michigan, retained its former name; and the immense extent of country, northwest of this, was made a separate

Territory, and received the name of Indiana. Soon after this division had taken place, Mr. Harrison resigned his seat in Congress, and was appointed governor of the new territory. This appointment gave great satisfaction to the people of Indiana, with whom the patriotic exertions of Mr. Harrison had rendered him deservedly popular; and it was, at the same time, the strongest evidence of the confidence, with which the general government relied upon his integrity, prudence, and capacity for civil government.

The extent of Indiana was almost boundless. The small population it then contained was thinly scattered through a vast wilderness, and only three settlements of any note existed within its territory. One of these was at Vincennes, the capital; another at the Falls of the Ohio, one hundred miles distant from Vincennes; and the third was on the Mississippi, at a distance of more than two hundred miles from the capital. The communication between these remote points was, at all times, difficult and toilsome, and often attended with great danger. There existed no practicable roads, and nearly all the intermediate country was occupied by the Indians, or overrun by their hunting parties. Most of those savage tribes, though professing to be friendly, were restless and dissatisfied; and their leading chiefs still nursed a moody hope of revenge for the mortifying defeat they had sustained six years before, at the battle of the Miami. Artful and treacherous, numerous, warlike, and thirsting for plunder, they kept this remote frontier in continual excitement and alarm. The angry feelings of our hardy borderers were frequently roused by some robbery or atrocious violence committed by the more evil disposed among their savage neighbors, and quarrels often ensued, which threatened the peace of the whole community.

Such was the existing state of things in Indiana Territory, when Mr. Harrison was appointed to the administration of its government. As governor of a frontier Territory so peculiarly situated, Mr. Harrison was invested with civil powers of the most important nature, as well as with military authority. Besides the ordinary powers which he held, *ex officio*, as governor, he had the sole power of dividing the district into counties and townships, and was appointed the general superintendent of Indian affairs.— He had likewise the usual power of conferring on a numerous class of individuals a legal title to large grants of land, on which they before had merely an equitable claim. His sole signature

was sufficient, without any other formality, to give a valid title to these extensive and valuable tracts of land. Possessed of this immense power, opportunities were continually before him, of accumulating a princely fortune; but the scrupulous sense of honor, which has always characterized Mr. Harrison, would never permit him to speculate in lands over which he had any control.— And it is a fact worthy of note, that, during the whole time that he held this important trust, he never availed himself of his peculiar advantages to acquire a single acre of land. No shadow of suspicion ever doubted his disinterestedness, and not a murmur ever accused him of partiality, or even of unnecessary delay, in the performance of this delicate duty. We mention this only to show that the integrity of Mr. Harrison is not merely theoretical, but practical; and that it has always shone with the purest lustre when assailed by the strongest temptations.

In 1803, Mr. Jefferson appointed Governor Harrison sole “commissioner to enter into any treaties which may be necessary with any Indian tribes, northwest of the Ohio, and within the territory of the United States, on the subjects of their boundaries or lands.” By virtue of this, or a similar authority, during the subsequent course of his administration, Harrison effected thirteen important treaties with the different tribes, on the most advantageous terms; and obtained from them, at various times, the cession of large tracts of land, amounting, in all, to more than sixty millions of acres, and embracing a large portion of the richest region in our country.

In their frequent intercourse with Governor Harrison, the Indians had learned to respect his undaunted firmness, and were, at the same time, conciliated by his kindness of manner and considerate forbearance. This, with his intimate knowledge of the Indian character, is the true secret of the remarkable success that has uniformly attended every treaty he has attempted to effect.

The various and arduous duties of the Governor of Indiana required, for this office, a man of very superior abilities—one possessed of stern integrity, and prudent moderation, accompanied by the most unwavering firmness. Such a man Governor Harrison, in the long course of his administration, fully proved himself to be. The plainest evidence of this, to those who are not familiar with the history of Indiana during this period, is the fact, that, for thirteen years, at every successive expiration of his term of office, he was re-appointed, at the earnest solicitation of the people of the



Territory, and with the public expression of the most flattering approbation on the part of our chief executive. And this too, notwithstanding the entire change which had taken place within that time, in the ruling politics of the country—his first appointment having been made by Mr. Adams, his second and third by Mr. Jefferson, and his fourth by Mr. Madison. The following extract from the resolution, unanimously passed by the House of Representatives of Indiana, in the year 1809, requesting the re-appointment of Governor Harrison, will show the estimate which a long acquaintance had taught them of his worth:—"They (the House of Representatives) cannot forbear recommending to, and requesting of, the President and Senate, most earnestly in their own names, and in the names of their constituents, the re-appointment of their present Governor, William Henry Harrison—because he possesses the good wishes and affection of a great majority of his fellow-citizens;—because they believe him sincerely attached to the Union, the prosperity of the United States, and the administration of its government:—because they believe him in a superior degree capable of promoting the interests of our Territory, from long experience and laborious attention to its concerns, from his influence over the Indians, and wise and disinterested management of that department; and because they have confidence in his virtues, talents, and republicanism."

If necessary, we might fill a goodly volume with extracts from public documents of a similar nature; but what stronger proof than this could we have of the popularity of Governor Harrison, and of the entire confidence with which the people relied on his integrity and ability as a statesman?

In the year 1805, the celebrated Indian chief, Tecumseh, and his notorious brother, the Shawanese Prophet, Ol-li-wa-chi-ca, (sometimes called Els-kwa-taw-a,) began to create disturbances on the frontiers of Indiana. Tecumseh was a bold and daring warrior; sagacious in council and formidable in battle. The Prophet was a shrewd impostor, cunning, artful, and treacherous;—and they were leagued together by the tie of mutual interests, and a common hatred to the whites. The object of these crafty intriguers was to form, by their own influence and the aid of foreign emissaries, a combination among all the northwestern tribes of Indians—with the hope, that by a simultaneous attack, they might destroy all the whites, or force them from the Valley of the Mississippi. But their designs were soon known to Governor Harri-



son, and, aware of his dangerous situation, his prudence and wise policy enabled him for several years, to hold his savage neighbors in check. The following extracts from a speech, which he delivered to the Legislature of Indiana, in 1809, will serve to show that he fully understood the nature and cause of the excitement then existing among the Indians:—"Presenting, as we do," said Governor Harrison, "a very extended frontier to numerous and warlike tribes of the aborigines, the state of our relations with them must always form an important and interesting feature in our local politics. It is with regret to that I have to inform you, that the harmony and good understanding which it is so much our interest to cultivate with those our neighbors, have, for some time past, experienced a considerable interruption, and that we have indeed been threatened with hostilities, by a combination formed under the auspices of a bold adventurer, who pretended to act under the immediate inspiration of the Deity. His character as a prophet would not, however, have given him any very dangerous influence, if he had not been assisted by the intrigues and advice of foreign agents, and other disaffected persons, who have for years omitted no opportunity of counteracting the measures of the government with regard to the Indians, and filling their naturally jealous minds with suspicions of the justice and integrity of our views towards them."

Two years subsequent to this, in 1811, from petty aggressions, the Indians proceeded to more open violence, and acts of decided hostility. The war-whoop was again heard yelling within the limits of the Territory, and every day brought fresh accounts of the perpetration of those atrocious deeds of depredation and murder, which always give the first intimation of a savage war. From motives of humanity as well as policy, Governor Harrison had always endeavored to avoid a war with the Indians; but when this result became unavoidable, he promptly adopted the most energetic measures, within his limited resources, to place the Territory in a posture of defence. At his own earnest request, and at the solicitation of the people, the President, soon after, directed him to march with an armed force towards the principal place of rendezvous of the hostile Indians, the Prophet's town, on the Wabash, near the mouth of the Tippecanoe—where this crafty impostor had assembled a body of more than a thousand fierce warriors, ready to obey his will.

Governor Harrison immediately assembled five hundred of the

militia and volunteers of Indiana. These, with a regiment of United States infantry, consisting of three hundred and fifty men, commanded by Colonel Boyd, and a small body of volunteers from Kentucky, constituted his whole available force—amounting in all to about nine hundred effective men. As soon as he had disciplined these troops, and trained both the regulars and militia in the Indian mode of warfare, he took up his line of march towards the Prophet's town.

He left fort Harrison, on the Wabash, about sixty miles above Vincennes, on the 28th of October, 1811. Profiting by his own early experience, and the remembered example of his old friend and commander, General Wayne, his march through a wild country to Tippecanoe, was conducted with so much skill and prudence, that he avoided all danger of ambuscade or surprise from the savage foe. On the 6th of November, the army arrived within five or six miles of the Prophet's town. According to the instructions he had received from the President, General Harrison immediately sent in a flag of truce, to endeavor to open an amicable negotiation with the hostile Indians. To this overture, the Prophet returned a deceitful reply—he professed the most pacific intentions, and agreed to meet Harrison the next day in council, with his chiefs, to settle definitely the terms of peace. But Harrison knew too well the treachery of his artful antagonist, to allow himself to be deceived by his specious professions, or lulled into any fancied security. He carefully selected the most eligible and defensible position for his encampment, and ordered his troops to lie upon their arms all night, that they might be in readiness, at a moment's warning, to repel any sudden attack of the enemy. The sequel proved that these precautions were wisely adopted.

An anxious night passed away without interruption; but about four o'clock on the following morning, two hours before daylight, a sentinel at one of the outposts discovered an Indian creeping stealthily towards the camp. He immediately gave the alarm, and almost at the same instant, a strong body of the enemy rushed towards the encampment, with the most savage yells. They made a furious charge on the left of the camp; and so sudden and desperate was their onset, that the guard stationed in that quarter, gave way, at first, to their fierce assailants. But the brave troops soon rallied, and retrieved the ground they had lost. The camp-fires were extinguished with all possible haste, and the battle was now waged on more equal terms. Our gallant troops fought with

the most daring intrepidity, and their savage foes evinced a desperate valor worthy of a better cause. The battle raged with great fury till the dawn of day, when a simultaneous charge was made upon the enemy, on either flank, and they were speedily put to flight, with great loss, and the battle terminated. During all this time, the false Prophet had been seated at a safe distance from the field of battle, chanting a war-song, and promising victory to his deluded brethren.

The battle of Tippecanoe was one of the most spirited and best fought actions recorded in the annals of our Indian wars. The numbers and the weapons on either side were nearly equal; and the Indians, contrary to their usual custom, fought hand to hand, and with the fiercest bravery. Every man in this battle encountered his share of danger; but no man was in more personal peril than Governor Harrison himself—well known to many of the Indians, and the object of their peculiar attack—his fearless and unshrinking exposure, makes it seem almost a miracle that he should have escaped unwounded. In referring to the coolness and integrity of Governor Harrison, on this occasion, we cannot refrain from making the following extracts from a journal published in 1816, by a private soldier, who fought in this battle, and who could have had no interested motives for his publication:—"General Harrison," he says, "received a shot through the rim of his hat. In the heat of the action his voice was frequently heard, and easily distinguished, giving his orders in the same calm, cool, and collected manner in which we had been used to receive them on drill or parade. The confidence of the troops in the General was unlimited." The same writer, in speaking of Harrison's kindness to the soldiers, and his influence over them, remarks:—"He appeared not disposed to detain any man against his inclination; being endowed by nature with a heart as humane as brave, in his frequent addresses to the militia, his eloquence was formed to persuade; appeals were made to reason as well as feeling, and never were they made in vain."

An incident that occurred at this time, is worth recording. The night before the battle, a negro man belonging to the camp, who had been missing, was arrested near the Governor's marquee, under very suspicious circumstances. He was tried by a court-martial for desertion to the enemy, and for an attempt to assassinate the Governor. Sufficient evidence was found to convict him, and he was sentenced to death; yet such were the humane feelings of Harrison, that he could not induce himself to sign the order for his



execution. As a criminal attempt had been made against his own life, he felt himself privileged to exercise his benevolence towards the offender, and the misguided wretch was suffered to escape the just punishment of his crime. It would have been more in accordance with the principles of strict justice, to have allowed the law to take its own course in this instance; but the circumstances of the case were very peculiar, and Governor Harrison's conduct evinced a magnanimity and humanity of heart rarely equaled.

The importance of the victory at Tippecanoe, cannot be too highly estimated. It quelled the haughty spirit of the discontented and hostile Indians, and defeated the plan which they had almost matured, of attacking and destroying our scattered border settlements in detail. Had we lost this battle, our army must have been annihilated—the whole extent of our defenceless frontier would have been left to the mercy of sanguinary and unsparing savages; and the consequent loss of life, and destruction of property, would have been almost incalculable.

The President, in his message to Congress, dated December 18th, 1812, makes the following honorable mention of this battle: "While it is deeply to be lamented," says Mr. Madison, "that so many valuable lives have been lost in the action that took place on the 9th ult., Congress will see, with satisfaction, the dauntless spirit and fortitude victoriously displayed by every description of troops engaged, as well as the collected firmness which distinguished their commander, on an occasion requiring the utmost exertion of valor and discipline."

The Legislature of Kentucky, at their ensuing session, expressed their high sense of Governor Harrison's good conduct on this occasion, by the following complimentary resolution:—

Resolved, That in the late campaign against the Indians, on the Wabash, Governor W. H. Harrison has, in the opinion of this legislature, behaved like a hero, a patriot, and a general; and that for his cool, deliberate, skillful, and gallant conduct, in the late battle of Tippecanoe, he deserves the warmest thanks of the nation."

This high encomium came from those whose friends and neighbors had participated in the late campaign, and who were consequently familiar with its details, and with the merits of the commander.

War was declared against Great Britain in June, 1812. Prior to this event, British agents had, for a long time, been tampering

with the discontented Indians within our Territory, and had bribed them with presents, and furnished them with firearms, to induce them to renew their hostilities against our country. The crafty and daring Tecumseh, too, was once more in the field. Urged on by his savage eloquence, by his own native love for war and plunder, and by the atrocious intrigues of foreign agents, the north-western Indians again raised the war-whoop, and commenced their barbarous system of warfare. Their cruel murders and depredations became of frequent occurrence; and the wailings of bereaved mothers and orphans, and the bitter complaints of those who had escaped from the conflagration of their plundered homes, excited the commiseration of our hardy borderers, and roused a general feeling of indignation. Such was the state of excitement in our frontier settlements in the summer of 1812.

Immediately after the declaration of war, our western governors promptly adopted every measure in their power, for the defence of their respective states and territories. But conscious of the great abilities and experience of Harrison, they placed the utmost reliance on his councils, and looked to him as the leader, under whom they might hope for success against the common enemy. He aided Governor Edwards in placing the frontier of Illinois in a posture of defence, and soon after, was invited by Governor Scott, of Kentucky, to a conference in relation to the Kentucky troops, which had been raised for the defence of the frontier. He accepted this invitation, and met Governor Scott at Frankfort; where he was received with the acclamations of the people, and with the highest civil and military honors. These public marks of the high estimation in which Harrison was held by the people, were shortly after followed by proofs still more flattering, of their confidence in his patriotism, his abilities and his military skill. Governor Scott had levied an armed force of more than five thousand militia and volunteers, commanded by some of the ablest men and most experienced officers in the state. Two thousand of these troops were ordered for immediate service; and they had no sooner learned that they were destined to march to the aid of their fellow-countrymen on the frontier, than they at once unanimously expressed the most earnest desire, to be placed under the command of Governor Harrison. This desire was responded to by the wishes of the people throughout the state. The laws of Kentucky, however, would not permit any other than a citizen, to hold a command in the State militia. In this dilemma, Governor Scott con-

sulted with the venerable Shelby, (the governor elect,) the Hon. Henry Clay, and other distinguished citizens of the state; and by their unanimous advice, he gave Harrison a brevet commission of major general in the Kentucky militia, with express authority to take command of the gallant troops, about to march to the frontier. This was a bold and unprecedented measure, but one that gave unbounded satisfaction to both soldiers and citizens, and one fully warranted by the peculiar exigencies of the case. These facts speak volumes in favor of the remarkable popularity which Governor Harrison enjoyed in a population of brave and chivalric people, boasting an unusual proportion of talented and distinguished men.

About this time, the cowardice and imbecility of General Hull tamely surrendered to the British the important post of Detroit, with the gallant force which composed its garrison. This event spread consternation far and wide, through the western country, and greatly increased the difficulty and arduous nature of Governor Harrison's duties. He immediately organized the brave troops under his command, and commenced a rigid discipline and military training; with the confident hope of retrieving the disasters consequent upon the cowardly surrender of Detroit.

Soon after, he was appointed a Brigadier general in the service of the United States. But, as the chief command of the western army was conferred on General Winchester, Harrison declined accepting the commission tendered him, and gave up his command, to return to Indiana and resume the duties of his territorial government.

General Winchester, who had thus superseded Governor Harrison, was an old revolutionary soldier, and a brave and meritorious officer; but one who was not, like Harrison, possessed of the enthusiastic confidence of the army. Governor Harrison exerted every effort in his power, to reconcile the troops to his charge. But soon after he left them, their displeasure at having been deprived of their favorite commander, was not confined to murmurs, but created disaffection and almost mutiny.

No sooner was the President made aware of the condition of the army, and of the almost unanymous wishes of the western people, than he immediately appointed Harrison, in place of Winchester, Commander-in-chief of the north-western army. The dispatch conveying this appointment, overtook him on his way to Indiana, and he returned without delay to the army, and was reinstated in his command.

The powers conferred on Harrison, as commander-in-chief of the north-western army, were of great extent, and he was left to exercise them according to his own unrestricted judgment. In the dispatch containing this appointment, dated September 17th, 1812, the Secretary of War says:—"You will command such means as may be practicable—exercise your own discretion, and act in all cases according to your own judgment,"—thus conferring upon him extraordinary and almost unlimited powers. We refer to this, merely that we may here notice the remarkable fact, that though vested with unusual powers, General Harrison was never known, during the whole of his command, to exercise his authority in an unjust or oppressive manner. His measures were energetic, but always qualified by his characteristic moderation and humanity, and by a regard for the feelings of even the meanest soldier in his camp.

The duties that devolved on General Harrison, in his new station, were arduous beyond description. The troops under his command, though brave, were mostly inexperienced and undisciplined recruits; and the army was badly equipped, and nearly destitute of baggage and military stores. With these limited means, and under these unfavorable circumstances, he was required to defend an immense extent of frontier, stretching along the shores of the great northern lakes, whose numerous harbors and rivers were easy of access to the enemy. In addition to this, the roads leading to those points which most required defence, were nearly impassable, and lay, for hundreds of miles, through a wilderness swarming with hostile Indians, and through gloomy and dangerous swamps, where the troops, though little encumbered with baggage, could advance but slowly, and with great fatigue. Under all these difficulties, the spirits of the soldiers were sustained by the presence and example of their favorite commander—who animated them in their fatigues, and cheerfully endured the same hardships and privations which they encountered.

The autumn and early part of the winter were spent in active and laborious preparations for the approaching summer campaign; roads were cut, depots formed, forts built, and a few expeditions were sent out to protect our out-posts, and keep the enemy in check. One of these expeditions, consisting of a detachment of six hundred men, under Lieutenant Colonel Campbell, was sent by General Harrison against a fortified Indian village, from which our troops had suffered much annoyance. This enterprise was



conducted with great skill and success. The village was attacked in the most gallant manner, and, after a desperate action of more than an hour, was carried at the point of the bayonet. From the general order issued by Harrison, on the return of this expedition, we make the following extract, which will convey some idea of the humane and generous feelings, that have always characterized both his public and private conduct. After awarding these gallant troops the high meed of praise which their bravery had won, he goes on to say—"But the character of this gallant detachment, exhibiting as it did, perseverance, fortitude, and bravery, would, however, be incomplete, if, in the midst of victory, they had forgotten the feelings of humanity. It is with the sincerest pleasure that the General has heard, that the most punctual obedience was paid to his orders, in not only saving all the women and children, but in sparing all the warriors who ceased to resist; and that even when vigorously attacked by the enemy, the claims of mercy prevailed over every sense of their own danger, and this heroic band respected the lives of their prisoners. Let an account of murdered innocence be opened in the records of heaven, against our enemies alone. The American soldier will follow the example of his government; and the sword of the one will not be raised against the fallen and helpless, nor the gold of the other be paid for the scalps of a massacred enemy." What a contrast does these noble sentiments present to the atrocious conduct of the British General, Proctor—who, at the cruel massacre at Raisin River, and elsewhere, basely permitted unresisting prisoners of war to be butchered, by his savage allies, in cold blood.

Late in the season the army went into winter quarters at their strongly fortified position on the banks of the Miami, near the rapids, which was called Camp Meigs, in honor of the patriotic governor of Ohio. Leaving the army at that station, General Harrison proceeded to Cincinnati, to procure reinforcements of men, and supplies of provisions and military stores for the approaching campaign. But early in the spring, intelligence was received that the British were making active preparations, and concentrating a large force of regular soldiers, Canadians, and Indians, to besiege Fort Meigs. On obtaining this information, General Harrison hastened to his camp, and exerted his most strenuous efforts, to prepare for this threatened attack of the enemy. His presence cheered the troops, and he inspired them with fresh ardour, on the approach of the enemy, by an eloquent address, in which he al-



luded modestly, but in the most animating manner, to the neighboring battle-field, where General Wayne had gained the brilliant victory of the Miami, and where he himself had won the brightest of his earlier laurels.

On the 28th of April, 1813, the scouts brought in intelligence of the arrival of the enemy. On the same day, a strong force of British and Indians ascended the river in boats, and disembarked, partly on the south-eastern shore, and partly on the opposite side of the river. Here they immediately commenced the construction of three powerful batteries. Corresponding traverses were made within the Fort, and every approach of the enemy was met and foiled, with consummate skill and bravery.

On the first of May, the batteries of the enemy being completed, they opened a heavy cannonading, which was returned with equal vigor from the Fort. This cannonading was continued without intermission for five days; but owing to the skillful dispositions of General Harrison, it was attended with very little loss on either side.

On the 5th of May, a gallant reinforcement of Kentuckians, under General Clay, fought their way to the camp; and Harrison, availing himself of this fortunate occurrence, promptly ordered a sortie to be made from the Fort to destroy the batteries of the enemy. The detachment ordered to this service, consisted of three hundred and fifty men, a part of whom were regulars, and the remainder volunteers and Kentucky militia, under the command of Colonel Miller, of the United States army. These brave troops attacked a body of British regulars and Indians, of more than double their number; but the impetuosity of their charge was irresistible, and after a severe struggle, they drove the enemy from the batteries. They spiked the cannon, took a large number of prisoners, and having fully accomplished that object, returned in triumph to the fort. This sortie was one of the most sanguinary and desperate actions fought during the whole war, and its brilliant success was richly merited by the intrepid gallantry of the brave troops engaged in it.

Another attack had, in the mean time, been made upon the British batteries on the opposite side of the river. The enemy were taken by surprise, and their batteries carried with great ease, but the result proved unfortunate. The detachment ordered to this service had received instructions from General Harrison, to return to the fort as soon as they had accomplished the object of the enter-

prise—but unhappily, the new and inexperienced, though brave troops, that composed this detachment, instead of obeying their orders, imprudently lingered till they were entirely surrounded by the enemy; and many of them were cut to pieces, without the possibility of lending them any aid from the fort. Had the commands of their general been obeyed, this misfortune could not have occurred, and the day would have been one of unclouded success and triumph.

Thwarted by the skillful dispositions of Harrison, and by the battle, or rather succession of battles, fought on the 5th, Proctor was compelled to abandon the siege of Fort Meigs; and on the 8th of May, he broke up his camp, and retreated in disappointment and disgrace.

Thus terminated the glorious defence of Fort Meigs. Harrison soon after left General Clay in command of that important post; and, unwearied in his exertions, proceeded to more difficult and arduous duties, at other exposed stations.

The unceasing efforts of the British, and the restless spirit of Tecumseh, allowed our troops but little time to recover from their severe fatigues. In less than two months after the siege of Fort Meigs had been abandoned, the Indians assembled a formidable body of more than five thousand warriors, under their most noted chiefs, and again threatened an attack on that fortress. On receiving this intelligence, General Harrison, with a small body of regulars, hastened to Fort Meigs, by forced marches, and fortunately arrived there before the enemy. Leaving a reinforcement with General Clay, he returned without delay to his more active duties.

During the whole of this interesting campaign, the vigilance and intrepidity of General Harrison, with the bravery of his soldiers, enabled him to keep a far superior force of the enemy in check, and to protect the wide extent of our exposed frontier. Our forts were ably defended, and our troops gallantly repelled every attack of the enemy, and in some few instances, where they were assailed by an overwhelming force.

At about the period when the enemy invested Fort Meigs for the second time, they made a desperate attack on Fort Stephenson, a temporary depot at Lower Sandusky, which was bravely and successfully defended by Major Croghan, of the regular service. We particularly mention this event in the campaign, as a noble action worthy of note, and because we wish to advert to the illiberal and unjust remarks, which have been made by some of General Harri-

son's political enemies, in relation to the defence of this fort, and the subsequent measures of the commander-in-chief. At the date of this attack on Fort Stephenson, the enemy had nearly seven thousand men in the field—two thousand of whom were British regulars and Canadians, and the remainder were warriors of the fiercest Indian tribes. The army under General Harrison was greatly inferior in numbers, and it became his duty as a skillful commander, to withdraw his unimportant outposts, to avoid risking unnecessarily the loss of a single soldier, and to enable him, by concentrating his forces, to hold the enemy in check at least, if he should not prove strong enough to give him battle. Fort Stephenson was a temporary and unimportant station, and so commanded by the high ground in its neighborhood, as to be utterly indefensible against heavy artillery—and such, from their command of the lake, the British could easily transport to its attack. Fully aware of this, from having reconnoitered the ground in person, Gen. Harrison, on learning that this station was about to be assailed, thought it proper to withdraw the garrison. He accordingly dispatched an order to Major Croghan, directing him to abandon Fort Stephenson, and repair, if practicable, to Head Quarters—which were then at Seneca Town, nine miles further up the river. This order was not received by Major Croghan until the following day—when flying parties of the Indians became so numerous round the fort, that, as Croghan himself stated, it was too late to carry the order into execution, and he decided on maintaining the place. In consequence of this disobedience of orders, Colonel Wells was immediately sent, with a strong escort of cavalry, to take command of Fort Stephenson, and Croghan was ordered to repair forthwith to Head Quarters. But on his arrival there, he made such satisfactory explanations to the commander-in-chief, of the situation of the fort, and of his own respectful intentions, that General Harrison at once reinstated him in his command. He returned to his duties the following morning, and on the same day, July 31st, this station was invested by a force of thirteen hundred British regulars and Indians. They attacked the fort with great vigor, and repeatedly attempted to take it by assault—but they were each time defeated, and were at length forced to abandon their attempt, and retreat in confusion, having lost, in killed and wounded, nearly as many as the entire number of the gallant spirits who defended the fort.

This defence of a position, which General Harrison had order-



ed to be abandoned, and the fact of his not having immediately advanced upon the enemy, were seized upon with avidity, by the ignorant and malicious among his political opponents, who industriously circulated the falsest statements and most perverted misrepresentations, relative to these occurrences. But fortunately, the plain truth soon became so well known, that General Harrison's fair fame suffered no injury from these unfounded calumnies. So many gallant officers as well as honorable and high minded men bore witness, of their own accord, to the military wisdom of his measures, that the stigma, with which his calumniators had endeavored to darken his unsullied reputation, only rebounded, to add a still deeper stain to their own.

We lay before our readers the following short extracts from an address to the public, relative to this affair, which was voluntarily published by the general, field, and staff officers of General Harrison's army. After expressing their "regret and surprise, that charges as improper in form as in substance, should have been made against Gen. Harrison, during the recent investment of Lower Sandusky," they go on and say:—"He who believes that with our disposable force, and under the circumstances which then occurred, General Harrison ought to have advanced upon the enemy, must be left to correct his opinion in the school of experience.

"On a review of the course then adopted, we are decidedly of the opinion, that it was such as was dictated by military wisdom, and by a due regard to our circumstances and to the situation of the enemy. \* \* \* \* And with a ready acquiescence, beyond the mere claims of military duty, we are prepared to obey a general, whose measures meet our most deliberate approbation, and merit that of his country."

The chivalrous and noble spirited Croghan, who was one of the signers of the above address, about the same time published another paper on this subject, dated from Lower Sandusky, in which he says: "I have with much regret seen in some of the public prints such misrepresentations respecting my refusal to evacuate this post, as are calculated not only to injure me in the estimation of military men, but also to excite unfavorable impressions as to the propriety of Gen. Harrison's conduct relative to this affair.

"His character as a military man is too well established to need my approbation or support. But his public service entitles him

at least to common justice. This affair does not furnish cause of reproach. If public opinion has been lately misled respecting his late conduct, it will require but a moment's cool, dispassionate reflection, to convince them of its propriety. *The measures recently adopted by him, so far from deserving censure, are the clearest proofs of his keen penetration and able generalship.*"

We have dwelt on this passage in the life of General Harrison, somewhat longer than is consistent with the brevity of this sketch; but the political opponents of General Harrison can find so few points in his whole life, that afford them the slightest apology for censure, that they have been driven to pervert and misrepresent an affair of so simple a nature as this, and one that, in truth, entitled him, as the gallant Croghan justly says, to the highest commendation. We have therefore thought it no more than common justice to him and to our readers, to lay before them this plain exposition of facts. The wisest and best actions are often misunderstood or perverted by the ignorant or the malicious. We trust and believe that the former constitute the larger portion of those who have sought to shadow the fair fame of General Harrison; but while mean and sordid spirits exist, envy and detraction will always pursue exalted merit. Even Washington, the Father of our country, was intrigued against and calumniated.

Disappointed in their hopes of plunder, and dispirited by the numerous defeats they had sustained, the savage allies of the British had become discontented; the second siege of Fort Meigs had been abandoned, and gradually the enemy entirely withdrew from our territory, and concentrated their forces at Malden, their principal stronghold in Upper Canada. It will thus be seen, that the skill with which Gen. Harrison had conducted his defensive operations, the only resource left him in the face of a superior foe, had been eminently successful; and had not only protected our widely extended frontier, but had eventually forced the enemy to retire, mortified and humbled by defeat, from our country.

The activity and enterprize of General Harrison, did not long permit the enemy to rest, after their retreat from our territory. He immediately commenced preparations for carrying the war into their own country, and formed his plan for the capture of Malden, and the conquest of Upper Canada.

Commodore Perry had been instructed to co-operate with General Harrison, with the fleet under his command, and by a happy coincidence, that gallant hero gained his glorious victory on Lake

Erie, and captured the entire squadron of the enemy just about the time when General Harrison had matured his plans for the invasion of Canada.

On the 27th of September, the troops embarked at Sandusky Bay, and advanced towards Malden, expecting to find the British and Indians encamped there in full force. But upon landing on the Canada shore, they found that Proctor, disheartened by his recent defeats, had abandoned that stronghold, after having destroyed the fort and navy yard, and had retreated with his regulars and savage allies to Sandwich. Our army encamped at Malden, and the patriotic troops could not restrain their exultation, on having gained possession of the fortress from which had issued, for years past, those ruthless bands of savages, which had swept over our extended frontier, like the wing of the destroying angel, leaving death and destruction only in their path.

Our army advanced rapidly in pursuit of the enemy, and overtook them on the 5th of October, at a place which is destined to be remembered, as the battle ground of one of the most remarkable and decisive actions fought during the war.

General Proctor, having had his choice of ground, occupied a strong position, flanked on the left by the river Thames, and on the right by a swamp, beyond which were posted two thousand Indians, under Tecumseh. But Proctor committed an irretrievable error, in placing his regular soldiers in open order, and extending his line by placing the files at a distance of three or four feet from each other.

The American army advanced in order of battle, and when in the immediate neighborhood of the enemy, the reconnoitering parties brought in intelligence of the dispositions Proctor had made. Harrison, with the rapid decision of an able general, instantly availed himself of the error of his opponent, and ordered Colonel Johnson to charge the enemy's line in column, with his regiment of mounted Kentuckians. The extended and weakened line of the enemy could offer but a feeble resistance to the charge of these gallant troops; who dashed through their ranks with overwhelming impetuosity, and formed and attacked them in the rear. Panic struck by this bold and unexpected manœuvre, and at being assailed both in front and rear, the British threw down their arms in dismay, and the whole army was captured, with the exception of a few who escaped by an early flight with Proctor. The Indians attacked our troops on the left, and fought with great fierce-

ness and daring, until their renowned chief Tecumseh was slain, as is supposed, by Colonel Johnson, when they fled from the contest.

This decisive and important battle was thus fought and won, in a space of time almost incredibly short, and with a very trifling loss only on our side. All the baggage of the enemy, and their valuable military stores, together with the official papers of Proctor, fell into our hands; and several pieces of brass cannon, which had been taken from the British in our revolutionary victories, but which Hull shamefully surrendered at Detroit, were again captured from our ancient foe.

The united force of the British regulars and Indians engaged in this battle, amounted to more than 2800—the number of our troops was less than 2500—and those were principally militia and volunteers. The venerable Governor Shelby commanded the Kentucky volunteers in this battle, and General Cass, the present Secretary of War, and the heroic Perry, acted as volunteer Aids to General Harrison. This brilliant victory, following up the capture of their fleet on Lake Erie by the gallant Perry, entirely destroyed the force of the enemy in Upper Canada, and put an end to the war on our northwestern frontier.

On receiving the news of this glorious event, the thanks of Congress were expressed to General Harrison in the warmest manner. Among many others, whose grateful feelings found utterance on this occasion, the Hon. Langdon Cheves observed, on the floor of Congress,—“That the victory of Harrison was such as would have secured to a Roman general, in the best days of the Republic, the honors of a triumph.” A sentiment which was fully responded to, in the complimentary notices which he received from every part of the Union.

Having entirely defeated the enemy in Upper Canada, General Harrison advanced with a part of his army, to the Niagara frontier, and thence to Sackett's Harbor, where he left the troops and proceeded to the seat of government. On his way thither, he passed through New York and Philadelphia; in which cities he was received with the most flattering marks of public honor and distinction. After the necessary delay of a few days at Washington, General Harrison proceeded to Ohio, where important duties required his presence.

In the plan for the ensuing campaign, to the surprise and regret of the public, General Harrison was designated for a service, far



inferior to that which he had a right to expect. Regardless of the memorable victories which this gallant and experienced officer had won, and unmindful of the various and important services which he had rendered to his country, the Secretary of War saw fit to assign to him the command of a district, where he would be compelled to remain inactive, while others were appointed to those more arduous duties, which he had heretofore fulfilled with so much honor to himself, and to the nation. As if still unsatisfied with this egregious insult which he had offered to General Harrison, the Secretary of War, on the 25th of April, 1814, appointed a subordinate officer to a separate command within his district, and notified him to that effect. On the receipt of this notification, General Harrison instantly addressed a letter to the Secretary, tendering his resignation, with a notification thereof to the President. "As soon as Governor Shelby heard of the resignation of General Harrison, he lost no time in addressing the President in his usual forcible terms, to prevent his acceptance of it; but unfortunately for the public interests, the President was then on a visit to Virginia, to which place the letters from General Harrison and Governor Shelby were forwarded, and that of the latter was not received until after Secretary Armstrong, *without the previous consent of the President*, had assumed to himself the high prerogative of accepting the resignation. The President expressed his great regret that the letter of Gov. Shelby had not been received earlier, as in that case the valuable services of General Harrison would have been preserved to the nation in the ensuing campaign."—(*Dawson.*)

In this resignation, General Harrison evinced the true patriotism and disinterestedness which have always marked his conduct. He would cheerfully have devoted his services to his country, even in an appointment inferior to that which should have been assigned him—but he was too high principled to retain his rank, by yielding assent to a measure, which he considered to be subversive of military order and discipline; and though his own fortune had been shattered by the neglect of his private affairs, for the benefit of the public, yet he scorned to receive the pay and emoluments of his office, when he was no longer permitted to perform its duties actively and honorably.

It would be difficult, at this period, to trace out the true motives that induced the Secretary of War to the unjustifiable course he pursued in this affair. But some knowledge of those events



of the war in which he bore a part, with a little insight into human nature, would suggest that the leading causes which prompted him, were the envy and jealousy, which a narrow minded man would naturally feel, on contrasting his own feeble efforts, and abortive attempts, with the consummate skill, the brilliant victories, and the almost uniform successes of another. That he had acted in an arbitrary and unwarrantable manner, was afterwards clearly proved.—And in the investigation which took place in Congress in the winter of 1816–17, it became so evident that General Harrison had been treated with great injustice by the War Department, that a resolution giving him a gold medal and the thanks of Congress, was passed, with but one dissenting voice in both houses of Congress.

The leading events in the campaigns of 1812–13, the gallant defence of Fort Meigs, and the decisive victory of the Thames, are lasting memorials of General Harrison's military genius. Yet, for these isolated actions, he deserves far less praise than for the skillful operations and Fabian policy, which led to these and other successes. The prudent care and indefatigable exertions, by which he provided for his army in a wild and devastated country; the promptness and unwearied activity, with which he met and defeated the schemes of his antagonists—and the admirable skill, with which he held in check an enemy far superior in numbers, and with a small force protected an extended line of frontier, and guarded the lives and property of thousands of his fellow citizens—betokened a genius of the highest order, with a vigorous mind constantly on the alert.

Soon after his resignation, in the summer of 1814, Mr. Madison evinced his unabated confidence in the abilities and integrity of Gen. Harrison, by appointing him to treat with the Indians, in conjunction with his old companions in arms, Gov. Shelby and Gen. Cass. And in the following year, he was placed at the head of another commission, appointed to treat with the northwestern tribes. The advantageous treaties made in both these cases, afforded new instances of the unfailing success, that has always attended Gen. Harrison's negotiations with the Indians.

In 1816, he was elected, by a large majority, a member of the House of representatives in Congress, from Ohio. In this station he served, greatly to his own honor, and to the satisfaction of his constituents, until 1819, when; on the expiration of his term of service, he was chosen to the Senate of the State Legislature.

In 1824, he was elected a Senator of the United States, from Ohio. While serving in this high station, he commanded universal respect. His views as a statesman were liberal and extended; his remarkable readiness in debate soon rendered him a prominent member—and the nervous and impassioned eloquence, and classical felicity of illustration, with which he enforced his arguments gained him much influence.

In 1828, he was appointed by Mr. Adams Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Columbia. He accepted this appointment, and repaired, without delay, to the scene of his duties, where he was received with every demonstration of respect. He found this unhappy country in a deplorable condition—the people ignorant of their rights, and almost in a state of anarchy, and Bolivar apparently about to assume the despotic power of a military dictator. Shocked with this state of things, with the frankness of an old soldier, he wrote his celebrated letter to Bolivar, from which, as we have not space for the whole letter, we take the liberty of quoting the following extracts:—"I contend," said Gen. Harrison, "that the strongest of all governments is that which is most free. We consider that of the United States as the strongest, precisely because it is the most free. It possesses the faculties, equally to protect itself from foreign force, or internal convulsion. In both it has been sufficiently tried. In no country on earth, would an armed opposition to the laws be sooner or more effectually put down. Not so much from the terrors of the guillotine and the gibbet, as from the aroused determination of the nation, exhibiting their strength, and convincing the factious that their cause was hopeless." \* \* \* \*

"In bestowing the palm of merit, the world has become wiser than formerly. The successful warrior is no longer regarded as entitled to the first place in the temple of fame. Talents of this kind have become too common, and too often used for mischievous purposes, to be regarded as they once were. In this enlightened age, the mere hero of the field, and the successful leader of armies, may, for the moment, attract attention. But it will be such as is bestowed on the passing meteor, whose blaze is no longer remembered, when it is no longer seen. To be esteemed eminently great, it is necessary to be eminently good. The qualities of the hero and the general must be devoted to the advantage of mankind, before he will be permitted to assume the title of their benefactor; and the station which he will hold in their regard and

affections will depend, not upon the number and splendor of his victories, but upon the results and the use he may make of the influence he acquires from them."

"If the fame of our Washington depended upon his military achievements, would the common consent of the world allow him the pre-eminence he possesses? The victories at Trenton, Monmouth, and York, brilliant as they were, exhibiting as they certainly did, the highest grade of military talents, are scarcely thought of. The source of the veneration and esteem which is entertained for his character, by every description of politicians, the monarchist and aristocrat, as well as the republican, is to be found in his undeviating and exclusive devotedness to the interest of his country. No selfish consideration was ever suffered to intrude itself into his mind. For his country he conquered; and the unrivaled and increasing prosperity of that country is constantly adding fresh glory to his name."

We regret that our limits will not permit us to insert the whole of this vigorous and beautiful production. But the few passages we have quoted, contain a fair specimen of the noble sentiments which characterize this letter, and give evidence of the pure republican principles, which have ever distinguished this eminent statesman.

General Harrison remained in Colombia but a short time, having been recalled by the present administration, soon after it came into power.

Since his return from this mission, he has lived in comparative retirement, in Ohio, the State of his adoption. With the most enticing opportunities of accumulating wealth, during his long government of Indiana, and superintendence of Indian affairs, he acquired none; his honest and scrupulous integrity was proof against the golden temptations. His time and best energies were devoted to the service of his country, and his own interests were ever, with him, a secondary consideration. He therefore retired without the spoils of office, and with only a competency barely sufficient for his support; but rich in a reputation undimmed by a single tarnish, and in the honor and respect of all his fellow citizens.

General Harrison is now sixty-six years of age; but such has been the activity and temperate habits of his past life, that he enjoys his moral and physical energies in remarkable vigor. In person he is tall and thin; his features are irregular, but his eyes are dark, keen and penetrating; his forehead is expansive; his



mouth peculiarly indicative of firmness and genius; and his countenance is highly expressive of intelligence and benevolence. His manners are plain, frank, and unassuming, and his disposition is cheerful, kind, and generous, almost to a fault. In his private intercourse, he is beloved and esteemed by all who know him. In the various civil and military offices he has held, he has always been moderate and forbearing, yet firm and true to his trust. No other commander has ever been more popular with our militia, and the true secret of this cannot be better explained than by his own reply, when asked how he gained this influence: "By treating them," said he, "with affection and kindness; by always recollecting that they were my fellow citizens, whose feelings I was bound to respect; and by sharing with them, on every occasion, the hardships which they were obliged to undergo."

In the republican institutions of our country, birth and parentage are comparatively of very little importance; and no candidate for public favor can found thereon the slightest claim to the respect or the support of his fellow citizens. We have happily shaken off the thralling prejudices of the old world, and a title to office and honorable distinction is not with us hereditary; but every man must earn his own good name, and his claim on the favor of the people, by his own good deeds. Yet, aware, as every one must be, of the powerful influence of early education, it is worthy of remark, as well as gratifying to know, that a candidate for public office, in whom we feel an interest, passed all the early years of his life with the brightest examples constantly before him; and under the parental tuition of one of those illustrious patriots, whose memory is revered by every true American. It is pleasing to know, that his first political sentiments were imbibed in a school of the purest republican principles. And when we trace up the career of this individual, from the spring time of his youth, to the summer of his manhood and to the early autumn of his years, and see those principles closely adhered to throughout, we can scarcely resist the conviction, that his future course will be consistent with the past; and that, with matured abilities, he will be still more conspicuous for his republican principles, his moderation in office, his firm integrity, and his extended and enlightened views as a statesman. Such were the early advantages of William Henry Harrison; such has been his course thus far through life; and such is now the bright promise, to a realization of which we may safely look forward, should the people see fit to place him in office.

The friends of General Harrison found no claim on his military services. His own sentiments on this subject we have already quoted; and his friends would scorn, as much as he would, any attempt to dazzle a single one of his fellow citizens by the glory of his military renown, brilliant though it be. They would point rather to his numerous civil services, in the forty years he has devoted to his country; to the various and important offices he has so ably filled; in The territorial governments, in the Legislature of his own State, and in the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States; and to the high order of abilities displayed in his speeches in Congress, in his public acts, and in his voluminous public correspondence. And we here take occasion to say, that all his letters and public papers have been exclusively written by himself; and that so far from his having called in the mental aid of another, to prepare his messages and dispatches, as some of our distinguished men have condescended to do, he has never even employed an amanuensis, to perform the manual labor of his correspondence. His ruling principles through life, appear to have been, an ardent love for his country, and an earnest desire to serve her best interests; with a devotion to the pure republican maxims of the Revolution, always unwavering and consistent: unlike the scheming politicians of a more modern school, whose own interest is the polar star that guides them, whatever may betide their country.

With tried patriotism, with abilities of the highest order, with integrity pure as the unsullied snow, and with the truest republican principles, William Henry Harrison is now before his fellow-citizens, as a candidate for the highest office in their gift. In the long course of his public life, he has always been a staunch advocate of popular rights, and is therefore truly the candidate of the people. He comes before them, not with a crowd of pampered and still-grasping officials to intrigue and bribe for him, but with the noble frankness of an honorable and high-minded man, willing and desirous to be judged impartially by his fellow citizens, and ready to abide by their honest decision.

## APPENDIX.

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THE following correspondence was called out in consequence of remarks relative to the character and conduct of General Harrison, made by members of the House of Representatives of the State of Ohio, in their places on the floor of that House. A letter was addressed to each of the gentlemen, whose replies are given below, by a member of the House who heard the remarks, stating their substance, and requesting from each a statement of the facts which fell within his personal knowledge, respectively. The high character of the gentlemen whose statements have thus been obtained, (one of whom has been a uniform and prominent supporter of the last and present Administrations of the General Government,) is such as to put the facts to which they bear testimony, entirely beyond doubt.

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*Washington, Ky., 24th Feb., 1840.*

DEAR SIR,—Your letter of the 17th inst. reached me to-day by the *Southern* mail, marked “mis-sent, forwarded.” This will account for your not having my answer at an earlier day. You have been correctly informed that “I was in the battle of the Thames, and near the person of General Harrison, from the commencement to the termination of the engagement, and that I personally know what part General Harrison took in it.” I had the honor to act as a volunteer Aid-de-camp to General Harrison, during the active operations of that campaign; and was at no time more than five minutes out of sight of him, on the day of the battle, until after the surrender of the British Army, and retreat of the Indians. You say, “It has been avowed on the floor of the House of Representatives (of Ohio) now in session by members in their places, that General Harrison was at no time in the battle, nor within two miles of the battle ground; that the entire plan of operation was projected by Col. R. M. Johnson; that he led the troops on to conquest, and that General Harrison had neither part or lot in the matter.” From the reckless character of the attacks made upon General Harrison, through the prostituted and pensioned press devoted to the support of the present administration, it is not surprizing that that portion of its supporters, who read nothing else but the papers devoted to the re-election of Mr. Van Buren and abuse of General Harrison, should make such statements; but that a member of a legislative body, who from his station ought to be



a man of information, and a gentleman, should be so ignorant of the history of one of the most important battles of the late war, or so utterly regardless of truth, as to make such a statement, is truly astonishing. Every member of your Legislature has, I presume, read General Harrison's official account of the battle of the Thames; and wanton and unprincipled as have been the misrepresentations of General Harrison's military character and conduct, I have now, (after a lapse of upwards of twenty-six years,) for the first time heard the intimation that his account of it was in any particular untrue. In that paper, General Harrison states correctly the position he occupied at the commencement of the action; and he might have stated, with equal truth, that he in person gave the word of command to the mounted Regiment to "charge:" and that he advanced with it, until it received the enemy's fire, and then passed rapidly to the left, where the Indians still obstinately maintained the fight. Such, sir, I aver to be the facts, and feel perfectly confident that General Cass (who was in the battle), and General Harrison's other Aids-de-camp, will unhesitatingly sustain me in the statement; and it happens that they are all yet alive. One of them, Col. John O'Fallon, resides at St. Louis, Missouri; and the others, Cols. Charles S. Todd, and John Speed Smith, at Shelbyville and Richmond, in this State. As to the statement, that "the entire plan of operations was projected by Col. Johnson," it is like the charge that General Harrison was at no time in the battle, nor within two miles of the battle ground, *false, utterly false*. The idea of charging the enemy with the mounted men, was exclusively General Harrison's. I was present when he first announced it, and know that Col. Johnson was then at the head of his command, and was not consulted on the subject, until after General Harrison had expressed his determination to make the charge: and if it is intended to state, that the operations of the campaign, or the order of battle, was projected by Col. Johnson, it is equally untrue; and I am very confident that he has not and never will give the slightest sanction to such statements, as you say have been made by members of your House of Representatives.

You have my permission, sir, to make such use of this letter as you may think proper.

Respectfully, your obt. serv't.

JOHN CHAMBERS.

*Washington, 28th Feb., 1840.*

DEAR SIR,—Since writing to you, in answer to your letter of the 17th inst., it has occurred to me that a principal object of the falsehoods, relative to General Harrison, which have found propagation on the floor of the Ohio House of Representatives, must be to make the impression that he is *a coward*; and tho' you do not state in your letter, the cause assigned by his slanderers for his alledged absence from the command of his army at the battle of the

Thames, I presume no motive for it less charitable than sheer cowardice would have been imputed by one capable of such misrepresentation of his conduct. But whatever may be the alledged inducement for the conduct attributed to him, the relation in which I then stood to him, and my knowledge of what his actual conduct was, imposes on me the duty I have performed, of pronouncing the charge *false*; and I trust you will pardon me for suggesting the propriety, (if an appropriate occasion presents itself, or can be made in open session,) of demanding of the members of your House, who have made the charge, the authority upon which they made it; whether from their own knowledge or observation, or upon the information of others; and if upon the information of others, their names and residence. The original inventors of the falsehood ought to have the advantage of all the celebrity it is calculated to give them.

On the subject of General Harrison's personal bravery, is it not very remarkable, if he is a coward, that none of the gallant officers or soldiers who served with him under General Wayne, or those who fought under his command at Tippecanoe, at Fort Meigs and the Thames, discovered his cowardice; and that the discovery should have remained to be made by some scurvy politician of the present day? for I will venture to predict, that no officer, or soldier, of respectability, who served with him or under his command, can be found to "take the responsibility" of charging him with cowardice. In connection with this subject, permit me to relate a fact, which occurred in my presence, and which is calculated to give some idea of the character of General Harrison's pretensions to firmness and disregard of personal danger: On the day preceding the battle of the Thames, when his army approached the last right-hand fork of the river, (called, I think, MacGregor's fork,) General Harrison, accompanied by Commodore Perry and his Aide-de-camp, rode forward to examine the bridge which crossed the mouth of the stream, and which the enemy had partially destroyed; and while viewing it, several hundred Indians, (under the command of Tecumsey as we learned afterwards) who were concealed at some cabins called Chatham, and in the bushes on the opposite side of the stream, commenced a brisk fire upon the little party in the midst of which General Harrison was. At that moment a dismounted company of Col Johnson's Regiment, commanded by Capt. Benjamin Warfield, who now resides in the neighborhood of Lexington, in this State, came up; the fire of the Indians was so severe, as to induce the gallant Perry to expostulate earnestly with General Harrison against the exposure of his person to such a fire when no good could result from it: but the General coolly replied, that he could not set the example of retiring from the fire of the enemy. The Artillery came up in a few minutes, and opened a fire upon the cabins, about which the Indians were concealed, and Capt. Warfield, crossing with his company upon the timbers of the bridge to charge them, they ran off.

Respectfully, your obt. servt., JOHN CHAMBERS.  
 MOSES B. CORWIN, Esq., Columbus, Ohio.



*St. Louis, Feb. 26th, 1840.*

HON. MOSES B. CORWIN: SIR,—Your favor of the 17th inst. is just received, and I lose no time in giving it acknowledgment. You request me to communicate the information I possess in relation to the military conduct of General Harrison at the battle of the Thames, the arrangements for the battle, the position of the troops, as well as of the General, during the engagement, together with any other knowledge I have touching his military character.

In reply, I submit the following statement: At the battle of the Thames, Col. Charles S. Todd, afterwards Inspector General of the North-western Army, and myself, were the regular Aids-de-camp of General Harrison. Majors John Chambers and John Speed Smith, were the volunteer Aids. The battle, as is well known, took place on the right bank of the river Thames, near the Moravian village. A short distance from this place, and whilst our troops were in rapid pursuit of the enemy, General Harrison received information from an advanced party, that the British and Indian forces had halted, and seemed to be awaiting us for battle. When within half a mile of the enemy, after the American forces were formed in the order of battle. Gen. Trotter's brigade in front; Col. Paul's regulars, with the artillery, near his right; Col. Johnson's mounted Regiment on the left of Trotter as a reserve, and the residue of the Kentucky Volunteers covering the left flank and rear; Col. Wood of the Engineer Corps, who by order of General Harrison, had approached, unobserved by them, sufficiently near the front line of the enemy to ascertain their position and the order in which they were drawn up, reported that the British Troops, in order to occupy the high ground between the river and the swamp parallel to it, were drawn up in extended, or open order between these points; the Indians, on their right, occupying the swamp and ground beyond it. General Harrison, without one moment's delay or the slightest embarrassment, formed his purpose. I was within a few feet of him, when the report of Col. Wood was made; and he *instantly* remarked that he would make a novel movement by ordering Col. Johnson's mounted regiment to *charge the line of the British Regulars*; which thus drawn up, contrary to the habits and usage of that description of troops, always accustomed *to the touch*, could be easily penetrated and thrown into confusion by the spirited charge of Col. Johnson's Regiment. With a view to this intended charge, Col. Johnson's command was ordered to the front, supported in his rear as a reserve by Gen. Trotter's Brigade. I know that all the arrangements, and *every* movement of the troops during the battle, were made by the order of General Harrison; whose position at the commencement of the action was just in rear of Col. Johnson's command, and mainly afterwards near the crotchet formed by the junction of Johnson's left, with the Kentucky Volunteers, drawn up on the edge and in front of the swamp; a position considered by all as the most exposed and

dangerous within the lines of our army, and where the battle was warmly contested by the Indians, until they discovered the surrender of the whole British regular force: the happy result of the novel and skillful movement, most gallantly performed by Col. Johnson and his brave associates; but *conceived, planned and directed* by General Harrison, whose superior military judgment and ready skill neither needed *nor received* any aid.

After the return of the Army to Detroit, that brave veteran, that just, good and pure citizen, the late Gov. Shelby, on hearing read General Harrison's report of the battle, remarked in my presence and with much emphasis, that the report did him (Gov. Shelby) more than justice, and that to *General Harrison alone was due the credit* of the order of battle, the *whole* of the arrangements and plans which he (Gov. S.) had contributed to carry out to the best of his abilities.

At the commencement of the battle of Tippecanoe, when the first gun was fired at our advanced picket, I was at the tent of General Harrison, who was then up at the fire. I had an opportunity to observe his manner; he was *cool and collected*, and every movement of his countenance, and every word he uttered at that trying moment, perhaps the most embarrassing in the life of a soldier denoted the highest order of personal courage. He mounted his horse instantly, and accompanied by his staff, hastened in the direction of the line first attacked. A part of this line, unable to withstand the fierce and desperate onset of the Indians, the General met retiring within our lines in some disorder and confusion, closely pressed by the Indians, some of whom were in the midst of them. General Harrison *led in person* a company of the 4th Infantry to the breach; and such was the effect of his bold and fearless behaviour, and so great was the confidence of his army in his ability to conduct them to victory, that his presence and voice at once rallied the retreating detachment, and they took position at a point equally exposed, where half of their number, if not more, were either killed or wounded. The battle commenced at about 3 o'clock in the morning, during a slight rain, and the attack became general within five minutes afterwards, and continued until the dawn of day; when by an almost general charge, the Indians broke and fled before our bayonets. The Dragoons afterwards proceeded to their village and burnt it. During the battle, General Harrison was seen wherever danger was the most imminent, wherever the fight was the thickest. His Aid, Col. Owen, was killed at his side, and almost at the same moment a ball passed through the General's hat, grazing his head. *There was not a spot within our lines secure from the shot of the enemy.* On this, as on every other occasion within my observation, General Harrison's conduct was that of a brave, and skilful commander; always calm and cool in his manner, and wholly indifferent to his personal safety, possessing the peculiar faculty of at once discerning whatever was wanting, and of promptly applying the remedy. A single instant of vacillation or uncertainty of purpose; the slightest tremor of

nerve or hesitation in mind, in the critical and appalling periods of the battle, would have been disastrous to his army. After the action, there seemed to be a universal admission by the officers and soldiers of the army, that there was not another officer in the battle, capable of having prevented a defeat and general massacre. All seemed to regard General Harrison as their deliverer from the Indian scalping knife.

According to my best recollections, Fort Meigs was cannonaded, day and night, with but little intermission for about eleven days. Shortly after its commencement, Major Chambers, of the British Army, was admitted into the stockade, the bearer from General Proctor of an invitation to surrender the garrison with the honors of war, on the ground that so small a force, about 1,000 men, could not sustain themselves against *four times their number*, the estimated British and Indian force. General Harrison at once rejected indignantly this proposition, replying to the insult in terms worthy of his high character. Both day and night, during the siege, General Harrison was most active, observing every movement of the enemy, and evincing his usual coolness, dauntless courage, and his happy readiness to perceive and apply every incident to his advantage. He succeeded in accomplishing *every plan and movement* where his orders *were obeyed*. I recollect not one instance to the contrary. The detachment under Col. Dudley, effected, in part, the object intended, in driving the British Troops from their position; but they disobeyed orders in not spiking the enemy's cannon, destroying their ammunition, and thereupon immediately recrossing the river to the main army. The two sorties on the south side of the river, and on the same day, planned and *executed* under orders from General Harrison, were eminently successful, resulting in the objects designed, forcing the British to raise the siege of Fort Meigs. That conducted by the brave and accomplished officer, *then* Col. John Miller, now a Representative in Congress from Missouri, intended to destroy a sunken battery, that had annoyed us very seriously, by enfilading our rear line of pickets, as well as to prevent the almost entire Indian force, then investing the fort on that side of the river, from co-operating with the British against Dudley's attack, made at the same time, on the opposite side, considering the very great disparity between our force and that of the enemy, being as four to one, was, I must be allowed to say, one of the most brilliant affairs of the last war.

Gen. Winchester's movement to the river Raisin, where he was defeated, was in disobedience of General Harrison's order, which required him to proceed to the Rapids of the Maumee of the Lakes, and to remain there for further orders.

I have extended my remarks beyond what I designed, when I commenced, but you will perceive my object was to give a full and satisfactory answer to your interrogatories. I aver, that on every occasion, when General Harrison commanded, he ever disregarded personal danger and sacrifice, in the performance of duty, exhibiting all the fine qualities of a dauntless soldier, combined with those



of a talented, skillful, and most able General. Why, at this remote period, when death has swept away so many memorials of General Harrison's intrepidity and excellence, should the poisoned spirit of political envy, attempt thus to tarnish the hard earned laurels of the veteran soldier, who, in public, as in private life, has lived "*without fear and without reproach?*"

This, Sir, is what I have to say of General Harrison. I doubt whether there is another living who has possessed equal opportunities with myself, of forming a correct opinion of General Harrison's military character. I served under him the greater part of the period he was in active service, near his person; commencing with the Tippecanoe expedition, and continuing to its termination; rejoining his army in the fall of 1812, at Franklinton, Ohio, where, immediately on my arrival, I became a member of his military family, as Secretary: In the winter of 1812 and 1813, was appointed his Acting Deputy Adjutant General; and in May 1813, immediately after the siege of Fort Meigs his Aid-de-camp, which station I held to the close of his military service. And in conclusion, I can safely say, that I never in my life, saw a braver man in battle, one more collected, prompt and full of resources, than General William Henry Harrison.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your most obt. servt.  
J. O'FALLON.

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*Cincinnati, 29th February, 1840.*

DEAR SIR,—Your letter, of the 17th inst., was forwarded, under cover, to Major Chambers, at Washington, Kentucky, and sent by him to my residence after I left home, which must be my apology for the delay of this answer.

I can state that you have been correctly informed that "I was in the battle of the Thames, and near the person of General Harrison, from the commencement to the termination of the engagement, and that I personally know what part General Harrison took in it." I was a Captain in the army of the United States, and had the honor to act as a regular Aid-de-Camp to Gen. Harrison, during the active operations of the campaign, after the capture of the British fleet; and was by his side in the battle of the Thames, with the exception of the time when, after the capture of the British troops, he directed me to proceed to Gov. Shelby, and order him to bring up Simrall's Regiment and reinforce that portion of Johnson's Regiment and the left of Trotter's Brigade, which was pressed by the Indian force.

You say "it has been openly avowed on the floor of the House of Representatives of Ohio, now in session, by members in their places, that General Harrison was at no time in the battle, nor within two miles of the battle ground; that the entire plan of operations was projected by Col. R. M. Johnson; that he led the troops to conquest, and that General Harrison had no part or lot in the



matter." From my personal knowledge of the plan and events of that battle, I have no hesitation in stating, that these declarations in relation to General Harrison's position and conduct in that battle, are destitute of any foundation in truth. General Harrison has correctly stated, in his report to the War Department, the position he occupied just before the commencement of the action; and he might have added, that he in person gave the word of command to the mounted Regiment to "charge"—he having, with his Aids-de-Camp, passed from the right of the front line of infantry, to the right of the front of the mounted column, and not only ordered the charge to be made by pronouncing the word, but called upon his Aids to repeat and pass the word along the line. I was close by his side, and he was so near the enemy, that their fire cut down the leaves and twigs of the trees just above our heads.

As soon as the British troops had surrendered, and after I had been sent to Gov. Shelby with the order already adverted to, General Harrison passed to the point where the Indians were annoying the left, and personally directed the operations in that quarter, to the close of the action. I met Gov. Shelby, bringing up Simrall's Regiment, he having anticipated the General's wishes as to that movement. In this way, Gov. Shelby and General Harrison with his Aids, met at the point where the Indians had made their most desperate effort, and from which they soon after retreated.

The first arrangement for the battle, as well as the subsequent change, which was predicated upon the important information obtained by the *military eye of Col. Wood*, was planned alone by General Harrison. The execution of this subsequent plan, was confided to the Regiment commanded by Col. R. M. Johnson, who led in person the 2d Battalion, aided by Major Thompson; which, in its extension to the left, brought some portion of it in contact with the Indian line. The 1st Battalion was led by Lt. Col. James Johnson, aided by Major Payne. This Battalion, to the right of the front of which General Harrison and his staff advanced, and where he personally gave the word "charge," captured the British line, and having thus turned the Indian left, *decided the fate of the day.*

You are at liberty to make such use of this letter as you may think proper.

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,

C. S. TODD.

MOSES B. CORWIN, Esq.

*House of Representatives, Columbus, Ohio.*

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*Richmond, March 6, 1840.*

SIR,—Your letter of the 17th ult. was received on yesterday, in which you state, that "it has been openly avowed that General Harrison was at no time in the battle of the Thames, nor within

two miles of the battle ground—that the entire plan of operations was projected by Col. R. M. Johnson—that he led the troops on to conquest, and that General Harrison had no part nor lot in the matter.” My humiliation is deep, that a necessity should exist, produced by party rancor, to prove facts attested by history for more than a quarter of a century, and which have never before been questioned. That ignorance and credulity abound to an extent, to render such baseless assertions available, bespeaks a lamentable state of public intelligence, and portends no good to the republic.

That Col. Johnson led the van, and brought on the battle, is true; that he behaved with the utmost gallantry, is also true; but your letter contains the first suggestion which has ever reached me, that “the entire plan of operations was projected by him.” The magnanimity of Colonel Johnson, will repudiate, with proud indignation, such an effort to cluster additional laurels upon his brow, thus unjustly torn from the brow of his General. Colonel Johnson received orders, as to the form and manner of charge, from General Harrison in person, in the face and almost in sight of the enemy. The General was with the Regiment when the charge was sounded. As Johnson moved to the charge, the General started for the line of Infantry, which was drawn up in order of battle. He had not gone far, before turning to me, (and to the best of my recollection, I was the only one of his Aids then with him,) he said, “Pursue Col. Johnson with your utmost speed—see the effect of his charge, and the position of the enemy’s Artillery, and return as quickly as possible.” Having executed this order as promptly as practicable, I met him on my return, pressing forward with the front of the infantry. Upon reporting, that Col. Johnson had broke the enemy’s line—that they were surrendering, and that their cannon was in our possession—he exclaimed, in an animated tone, “Come on my brave fellows, Proctor and his whole army will soon be ours.” Soon after this, an officer, (I believe the late Judge John McDowell, of Ohio,) rode up and reported, that the left wing, at or near the crotchet, was suffering severely, and in great disorder. This communication was made in the hearing of the soldiers.—The General contradicted the latter part of the statement in the most emphatic manner—but giving order to the next in command to push forward, he dashed with the messenger to the indicated point of conflict and confusion, and found the contest pretty close and severe. A portion of Johnson’s Regiment, owing to the impracticability of the ground for horse, had dismounted, and was fighting on foot and mingled with the infantry—which had been, to some extent, the cause of the confusion. Order was soon restored, and the left wing closed to the front, (which formed the crotchet,) under the personal supervision of General Harrison. In the mean time, some of our soldiers were shot within less than ten feet of the General; for the conflict here was sharp and animated, and continued so for some time. With the exception of the charge made by Col. Johnson’s Regiment, General Harrison was in the most exposed and dangerous parts of the battle.

It is due to the occasion to relate the following incident: The day before the battle, the army was impeded in its march by the destruction of a bridge across a branch of the Thames, up which it was moving, at or near the mouth of the branch. Col. Johnson had been ordered to cross this stream at some mills, two or three miles above the mouth. The road led him by the bridge. A portion of his regiment had a brush with a party of Indians, posted in cabins, on the opposite side of the Thames and the branch, and also under the thick covert along their banks, to dispute the passage of the stream, and harass all attempts to repair the bridge. As soon as the firing was heard, the General hurried to the scene of action, accompanied by a portion of his family, of which Commodore Perry was one. When I arrived, I found General Harrison, Commodore Perry and other officers, (I think General Cass was one,) in an open piece of ground, near the bridge. Col. Johnson had passed, and a small portion of his Regiment, previously dismounted, under the command of Capt. Benjamin Warfield, and some Infantry which had hurried up, were carrying on the skirmish. Maj. Wood had been ordered up with a small piece of artillery. Commodore Perry urged General Harrison to withdraw, as he was too much exposed for the Commander-in-Chief. If I mistake not, Gen. Cass united with the Commodore, and offered to remain and see his orders executed. The General, with Perry and the residue of his suit, started off; but General Harrison went but a few steps and returned, and retained his position near the cannon, until the Indians were dislodged and driven, the bridge repaired, and the army put in motion to cross. During this whole time he was as much or more exposed than the soldiers, being on horseback all the while. The Commodore afterwards remonstrated with him against this unnecessary exposure, observing, "that in open sea he could stand fire tolerably well, but there was no fun in being shot at by a concealed enemy. The General justified his conduct by saying "the general who commands Republican volunteers, in whose ranks the best blood of the country is to be found, must never think of his own safety, at least until his troops become familiar with his disregard of personal danger." Hardihood itself has never denied Perry's courage. Chambers and Todd of Kentucky, and O'Fallon of Missouri, the other Aids of General Harrison at the battle of the Thames, are still living, and can give you additional facts, if required.

Although it is not in direct response to any part of your letter, I must be permitted to say, that my intercourse with General Harrison left the conviction on my mind, that he was a gentleman, a soldier, and a patriot, and I deprecate most sincerely, the injustice attempted to be done him by a portion of that party with which I have always voted.

I am, sir, respectfully,

your obedient servant,

J. SPEED SMITH.

M. B. CORWIN, Esq



We certify, that we have carefully compared the letters as above printed, with the originals, and that they are true copies thereof. The original letters can be seen by calling on Moses B. Corwin, Esq. of Urbana, Champaign Co. Ohio, to whom they were directed.

ALFRED KELLEY,  
N. M. MILLER,  
F. STEWART,  
ROBERT NEIL,  
LYNE STARLING, jr.  
JOHN L. MINER,  
JOHN W. ANDREWS,  
LEWIS HEYL,

*State Central Committee..*

*Columbus, Ohio, March 21, 1840.*

In addition to the above authorities, the following is from military officers who were present on the ground, at the battle of Tippecanoe:

"The battle of Tippecanoe having terminated a campaign which led us to victory and honor, it is with pain we behold aspersions in the public prints aiming to destroy the confidence of our country in our late Commander-in-chief.

"Gov. Harrison having relinquished the command of the army lately employed against the Indians, and probably as an officer left us forever, the present statement cannot be attributed to servile flattery, but to the true and honest expression of our real sentiments in favor of a General whose talents, military science and patriotism, entitle him to a high rank among the worthies of the Union: and whom we consider injured by the gross misrepresentations of the ignorant and designing, who are alike inimical to the best of Governments and the best of men.

"We, therefore, deem it a duty to state as incontestible facts that the Commander-in-chief, throughout the campaign, and in the hour of battle, proved himself the soldier and the General; that on the night of the action, by his order, we slept on our arms, and rose on our posts; that, notwithstanding the darkness of the night, and the most consummate savage cunning of the enemy in eluding our sentries, and in rapidly rushing through the guards, we were not found unprepared; that few of them were able to enter our camp, and those few doomed never to return; that in pursuance of his orders, which were adapted to every emergency, the enemy were defeated with a slaughter almost unparalleled among savages. Indeed, one sentiment of confidence, respect, and affection towards the Commander-in-chief, pervaded the whole line of the army, which any attempt to destroy we shall consider an insult to our understanding, and an injury to our feelings. Should our country again require our services, to oppose a civilized or savage foe, we should march under the command of Gov. Harrison with the most perfect confidence of victory and fame.

JOEL COOK, *Captain 4th Infantry.*

JOSIAH SNELLING, *Captain 4th United States Infantry.*

R. C. BARTON, *Captain 4th Infantry.*

O. G. BURTON, *Lieutenant 4th Infantry.*

NATHANIEL P. ADAMS, *Lieutenant 4th Infantry.*

CHARLES FULLER, *Lieutenant 4th Infantry.*

A. HAWKINS, *Lieutenant 4th Infantry.*

GEORGE GOODING, *2d Lieutenant 4th Infantry.*

H. BURCHSTEAD, *Ensign 4th United States Infantry.*

JOSIAH D. FOSTER, *Surgeon 4th Infantry.*

HOSEA BLOOD, *Assistant Surgeon 4th Infantry."*



In the Legislature of Indiana, on the 12th November, 1811, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Gen. Wm. Johnson, thus addressed General Harrison:

"SIR: The House of Representatives of the Indiana Territory, in their own name, and in behalf of their constituents, most cordially reciprocate the congratulations of your Excellency on the glorious result of the late sanguinary conflict with the Shawnee Prophet, and the tribes of Indians confederated with him. When we see displayed in behalf of our country, not only the consummate abilities of the General, but the heroism of the man; and when we take into view the benefits which must result to that country from those exertions, we cannot for a moment withhold our meed of applause."

And lastly, what said James Madison, in a special message to Congress, December 18, 1811? He said:

"While it is deeply lamented that so many valuable lives have been lost in the action which took place on the 7th ultimo, Congress will see, with satisfaction, the dauntless spirit and fortitude victoriously displayed by every description of the troops engaged, as well as the collected firmness which distinguished their commander, on an occasion requiring the utmost exertion of valor and discipline. It may reasonably be expected that the good effects of a critical defeat and dispersion of a combination of savages which appears to have been spreading to a greater extent will be experienced, not only in the cessation of the murders and depredations committed on our frontier, but in the prevention of any hostile incursions otherwise to have been apprehended."

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After the declaration of War,—"**JAMES MADISON**, in his Message to Congress, November 1812, said: 'An ample force from the States of Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, is placed, with the addition of a few regulars, under the command of Brigadier General **HARRISON**, who possesses the entire confidence of his fellow-soldiers, among whom are citizens, some of them volunteers in the ranks, not less distinguished by their political stations than by their personal merits.'"

The defence of Fort Meigs may fairly be considered as one of the most brilliant and extraordinary events which distinguished the late war; that work of defence, consisting of a mud embankment and an enclosure of piquets, was defended triumphantly and successfully by about one thousand men, for many days, against the attack of Proctor, who commanded an army of British and Indians, at least four times the number of Harrison's, and well furnished for the siege. Such were the skill, the bravery, and the indefatigable efforts of General Harrison—such was the success of the repeated sallies he made, that he compelled the enemy to abandon the siege in despair.

One incident is worth mentioning, that, on the second day of the attack, Proctor sent an officer with a flag to demand the surrender of the post, on the grounds that the American forces were too weak to sustain the siege against his overwhelming force, and General Proctor was anxious to save the effusion of blood. General Harrison promptly replied:

"If General Proctor knows the usages of war, as I am bound to believe he does, he must either have considered me ignorant of them, or he must have intended an insult. It was his duty to make the demand before he commenced firing on the works. But, sir, said he, go back and tell your General that I know my own force and his, and that I shall defend the works to the last extremity. Tell him, further, that if he ever possesses the fort, *he shall obtain it in a way that will give him more honor in the estimation of his Government than he could receive from a thousand surrenders.*"—*Dawson's Life of Harrison*, p. 392.

### *Battle of the Thames.*

"A more able disposition could not be made under such circumstances than was made by General Harrison. His conduct on this day is distinguished by a masterly device of his own, purely original, and such as none but a bold and inventive genius, peculiarly formed for the military profession, could have hit upon, or would have hazarded. It was not until the 5th of October that Proctor was overtaken. On that day the enemy was discerned in a position skilfully chosen. A narrow strip of dry land, flanked by the river Thames on the left, and by a swamp on the right, was occupied by his regular infantry and artillery, while on the right flank lay Tecumseh with his followers on the eastern margin of the swamp. But Proctor committed an error in forming his infantry in open order. General Harrison availing himself of the fact, and aware that troops so disposed could not resist a charge of mounted men, he directed Col. Johnson to dash through the enemy's line in column. The movement was made with brilliant success. The mounted men charged with promptitude and vigor, broke through the line of the enemy, formed in the rear, and assailed the broken line with success unequalled, and nearly the whole of the British regulars were either killed, wounded, or taken prisoners. On the left the Indians contended more severely, but Tecumseh being killed in the battle, they were soon subdued. Proctor fled in shameful desertion of his troops, escorted by his life-guard. The defeat of the enemy was complete. All the baggage of Proctor, and military stores, together with his official papers, fell into the hands of Gen. Harrison; and several field-pieces which had been taken from the British in the Revolutionary war at Saratoga and Yorktown, but which had been shamefully surrendered by Hull at Detroit, were retaken. The war having been thus gloriously terminated in his own district, Gen. Harrison repaired to Erie, and soon after to the seat of Government, Washington City. His resignation soon followed, as he retired to his private residence at North Bend, in the State of Ohio, and is now living as a private citizen."

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the thanks of Congress be, and they are hereby, presented to Major General William Henry Harrison and Isaac Shelby, late Governor of Kentucky, and through them to the officers and men under their command, for their gallantry and good conduct in defeating the combined British and Indian forces under Major General Proctor, on the Thames, in Upper Canada, on the fifth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and thirteen, capturing the British army, with their baggage, camp equipage, and artillery; and that the President of the United States be requested to cause two gold medals to be struck, emblematical of this triumph, and presented to Gen. Harrison and Isaac Shelby, late Governor of Kentucky.

H. CLAY,

"Speaker of the House of Representatives.

"JOHN GAILLARD,

"President of the Senate, *pro tempore*.

JAMES MONROE."

"APRIL 4, 1818.—Approved,

### *Letter from Governor Scott of Kentucky to Moses Dawson of Cincinnati.*

"MOSES DAWSON, Esq., Sir: You request my opinion of Gen. William Henry Harrison as a citizen, a soldier, and a general. I have had the pleasure of an acquaintance, intimately, for many years with Gen. Harrison, and ever considered him a man of honor; one who sought to do justice, and who was always willing to assist and benefit the condition of those with whom he was acquainted and associated, and know him to be the friend of the oppressed and injured. Hospitality without ostentation was always to be found within his doors, and his household was ever ready to extend charity to the sick and needy.

"As a soldier and an officer, I can speak from an acquaintance formed with him as such that I shall ever be proud of. I served under him in the campaign of 1811, upon the Wabash, as a Captain, and shared with him the danger in the action of Tippecanoe, in the night, on the 7th November, 1811. No one on the march or in the return did I hear murmur a complaint of the General's conduct. He possessed the confidence, and was the pride of the army—his absence even for one day, was felt by the army.

"I have thought, and still think, that few generals would have faced danger at so many points as General Harrison did in the action of Tippecanoe. Wherever the action was warmest, was Gen. Harrison to be found, and heard encouraging and cheering the officers and soldiers. His humanity, his attention, and his care of the wounded after the action, from the battle-ground to the hospital in Vincennes, was that of a benevolent Christian, and was evidence of the goodness of his heart. I cannot but say that I consider General Harrison's conduct in the campaign and in the action of Tippecanoe unexceptionable as a soldier and as a General, and will be so considered by every soldier and officer of the United States, when correctly informed, who was a friend to the late war, an enemy to Indian warfare, and who returned from the army with clean hands.

"I am, sir, yours, &c.

"THOMAS SCOTT."

[*Moses Dawson's Life of Gen. Harrison, p. 228.*

*Extract of a letter from Governor Shelby, dated at*

"FRANKFORT, April 21, 1816.

"In short, sir, from the time I joined you to the moment of our separation, I believe that no commander ever did, or could, make greater exertions than you did to effect the great objects of the campaign. I admired your plans, and thought them executed with great energy; particularly your order of battle, and arrangement for landing on the Canada shore, were calculated to inspire every officer and man with confidence that we could not be defeated by any thing like our own number.

"Until after I had served the campaign of 1813, I was not aware of the difficulties which you had to encounter as commander of the Northwestern Army. I have since, often said, and still do believe, that the duties assigned to you on that occasion were more arduous and difficult to accomplish than any I had ever known confided to any commander; and with respect to the zeal and fidelity with which you executed that high and important trust, there are thousands in Kentucky, as well as myself, who believe it could not have been committed to better hands.

"With sentiments of the most sincere regard and esteem, I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,

"ISAAC SHELBY."

[*Dawson's Life of Harrison, page 423.*

*Extract of a letter from Commodore Perry, dated at*

"NEWPORT, August 18, 1817.

"Although I have little or no pretension to military knowledge as relates to an army, still I may be allowed to bear testimony to your zeal and activity in the pursuit of the British army under General Proctor, and to say the prompt change made by you in the order of battle, on discovering the position of the enemy, always has appeared to me to have evinced a high degree of military talent. I concur most sincerely with the venerable Governor Shelby in his general approbation of your conduct (as far as it came under my observation) in that campaign.

"With great regard, I am, my dear sir, your friend,

"O. H. PERRY."

[*Dawson's Life of Harrison, page 423.*



President Madison's opinion of General Harrison at the battle on the Thames:

"The success on Lake Erie having opened a passage to the territory of the enemy, the officer commanding the Northwestern arms transferred the war thither, and, rapidly pursuing the hostile troops fleeing with their savage associates, forced a general action, which quickly terminated in the capture of the British, and dispersion of the savage force.

*"This result is signally honorable to Maj. Gen. HARRISON, by whose military talents it was prepared."*

The opinion of the Hon. Langdon Cheves, of the importance of the victory of the Thames, and the bravery of Gen. WM. H. HARRISON:

*"The victory of Harrison was such as would have secured to a Roman General, in the best days of the Republic, the honors of a triumph! He put an end to the war in the Uppermost Canada."*

The heroic and lamented Col. Davies of Kentucky, who fell at the battle of Tippecanoe, in a letter, dated the 24th of August, 1811, delivers this emphatic opinion:

"I make free to declare that I have imagined there were two military men in the West, and Gen. Harrison is the first."

From the message of Simon Snyder, Governor of Pennsylvania, December 10, 1813:

"Already is the brow of the young warrior, Croghan, encircled with laurels, and the blessings of thousands of women and children rescued from the scalping-knife of the ruthless savage of the wilderness, and from the still more savage Proctor, rest on Harrison and his gallant army."

Gov. Shelby to Mr. Madison, May 18, 1814, says:

"I feel no hesitation to declare to you that I believe General Harrison to be one of the first military men I ever knew."

Col. Richard M. Johnson to Gen. Harrison, July 4, 1813, says:

*"We did not want to serve under cowards or traitors, but under one [HARRISON] who had proved himself to be wise, prudent, and brave."*

And this same Col. Richard M. Johnson, now Vice President of the United States, thus expresses himself in a speech delivered in the House of Representatives of the United States, on the bill for the relief of the representatives of J. C. Harrison, deceased, March 2d, 1831:

"One of the securities is Gen. WM. H. HARRISON; and who is General Harrison? The son of one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, who spent the greater part of his large fortune in redeeming the pledge he then gave of "his fortune, life, and sacred honor," to secure the liberties of his country.

"Of the career of Gen. Harrison I need not speak. The history of the West is his history. For forty years he has been identified with its interests, its evils, and its hopes. Universally beloved in the walks of peace, and distinguished by his ability in the councils of his country, he has been yet more illustriously distinguished in the field.

"During the late war, he was longer in active service than any other general officer; he was perhaps oftener in action than any one of them, and never sustained a defeat."

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The reputation of General Harrison does not rest solely upon the ground of his military achievements, as will appear from a simple enumeration of the civil posts to which he has been successively called:

In 1791, when 19 years of age, he was appointed by Washington, an ensign in our infant army.

In 1792, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant: and in 1793, joined the legion under General Wayne, and in a few days thereafter was selected by him as one of his Aids.

On the 24th of August, 1794, he distinguished himself in the battle of the Miami, and elicited the most flattering written approbation of General Wayne.



In 1795, he was made a Captain, and was placed in command of Fort Washington.

In 1797, he was appointed by President Adams, Secretary of the North-western Territory, and *ex officio* Lieutenant Governor.

In 1798, he was chosen a delegate to Congress.

In 1801, he was appointed Governor of Indiana, and in the same year President Jefferson appointed him sole commissioner for treating with the Indians.

In 1809, he was appointed Governor of Indiana, by Madison.

On the 7th November, 1811, he gained the great victory of TIPPECANOE.

On the 11th September, 1812, the siege of Fort Meigs commenced—lasted five days, and was terminated by the brilliant and successful sortie of General Harrison.

On the 5th of October, 1813, he gained the splendid victory of the THAMES, over the British and Indians under Proctor.

In 1814, he was appointed by Madison, one of the Commissioners to treat with the Indians, and in the same year, with his colleagues, Governor Shelby and General Cass, concluded the celebrated treaty of Greenville.

In 1815, he was again appointed such Commissioner, with General McArthur and Mr. Graham, and negotiated a treaty at Detroit.

In 1816, he was elected a member of Congress.

In January, 1818, he introduced a resolution in honor of Kosciusko, and supported it in one of the most feeling, and classical and eloquent speeches, ever delivered in the House of Representatives.

In 1819, he was elected a member of the Ohio Senate.

In 1824, he was elected Senator in Congress, and was appointed, in 1825, Chairman of the Military Committee, in place of General Jackson, who had resigned.

In 1827, he was appointed Minister to Colombia, and in 1829 wrote his immortal letter to Bolivar, the deliverer of South America.

### *Eighteen Reasons why General Harrison ought to be Elected President of the United States.*

1. BECAUSE he is pledged to serve, if elected, but one term.

2. Every prominent act of his life proves him to be a friend and servant of his country, and a sterling Democratic Republican, in theory and practice.

3. He would confine the action of the Federal Government to its own appropriate sphere, check its monarchical tendencies, and maintain the balance of the Constitution.

4. He would be the President of the MANY, and not the agent of the FEW.

5. He is one of the People, and for the People. He sympathises with their wants, and understands their interests. He agrees that, "acquiescence in the decisions of the majority is the vital principle of Republics." He would exercise a "jealous care of the right of election by the people," and impart "equal and exact justice to all men," and all sections. It is regarded as an evidence of his belonging to the people, and their enemies call him, in derision, "*The Log Cabin Candidate*," and "*the Poor Man's President*."

6. He would have the public purse, *not* united with the sword, but kept in safety under the control of Congress, as intended by the Constitution.

7. He agrees that the executive power has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished, and will give his disinterested efforts to remedy the evil.

8. He would preserve, or apply, the public lands, as a common fund, in accordance with the compact, for the benefit of ALL, and not a part of the States.

9. He would restore the constitutional and republican course of legisla-

tion, act as the executor, not the originator of laws, and limit the veto power generally to cases of doubt.

10. He would, to use the language of Jefferson, "support the State Governments in all their rights, as the most competent administrations for our domestic concerns, and the surest bulwarks against anti-republican tendencies."

11. He would not seek an Executive Bank, nor renew the exploded system of Government paper money.

12. He is the friend of labor, of commerce and of trade, and the advocate of a sound and uniform constitutional currency.

13. He has spent forty years of faithful toil in the People's service, which he begun in youth and affluence, and ended in poverty without reproach.

14. He would bring to the administration of the Government an enlightened mind, comprehensive views, a magnanimous policy and an honest heart, and rest the merit of his administration upon the degree of good accomplished for the greatest number.

15. He is the father of the beneficent land system of the West, and the author of numerous laws and treaties worthy of an eminent statesman and diplomatist.

16. His life is a history of the West—and for his pre-eminent and self-sacrificing services as a soldier, as a Territorial Secretary, as a Delegate, Representative, and Senator in Congress, as a Governor, as a General, a hero, a diplomatist, a statesman, a scholar, an honest man and patriot, he deserves the gratitude of his countrymen.

17. He would reform and purify the departments of government, appoint honest and capable men to office, and stop the leaks in the Treasury.

18. In view of the great importance of the crisis, General Harrison is the MAN, reserved and qualified, as it would seem, by Providence, for the occasion, to fill the high hope and destiny of the country.

We might add more, but here are reasons enough to justify every man in the Republic, who desires to see the Constitution preserved, the Union perpetuated, and the public liberties transmitted, unimpaired, to posterity, in rallying for the patriot farmer and statesman of North Bend.

*"By their fruits ye shall know them;"* or, in the language of Gen. Jackson, the *"Tree is known by its fruit."*

From the foregoing sketch of the Life and Public Services of WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, the reader will have perceived that a very large proportion of them have been devoted to the *Western Country*, and in the promotion of its best interests and the prosperity and happiness of its citizens. And on the other hand, let him contrast the public acts of Mr. Van Buren merely in so far as the West is more intimately concerned, and then let him decide which is entitled to his vote for the high and exalted station of President of these United States.

Let the friends of Mr. Van Buren point to a single act of his public life calculated in the least to advance the interests or happiness of the West.

We have carefully compiled the following votes from the journals. If Mr. Van Buren's votes against every Western measure, in Congress, are "fruits" pleasant to the palate of his supporters, we are much deceived. Let them examine the record, and see whether such a candidate for President, has a single claim on the people of the West. Can honest Jackson men vindicate the votes of the President and Mr. Van Buren, at the same time, on the same policy, and be consistent? They cannot—they will not.—*People's Echo*.

In the Senate, April 24, 1824. Mr. Van Buren, according to the journal, page 318, voted against "An act to procure the necessary surveys, plans and estimates, upon the subject of roads and canals."

In Senate, May 19, 1824. Mr. Van Buren voted against "An act to improve the navigation of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers." Mr. Eaton, Gen. Jackson and Mr. Benton voted for the bill. Journal, page 441.

In Senate, Feb. 11, 1825. According to page 155 of the journal, Martin Van Buren voted to strike out a provision of a bill "for making surveys and carrying on the operations of the Board of Engineers, in relation to internal improvements."

On the 24th of February, Mr. Van Buren also voted against "An act for the continuation of the Cumberland Road."

In Senate, March 20, 1826. Mr. Van Buren voted to strike out the following from the first section of a bill entitled "An act making appropriations for the military service of the United States, for the year 1826," viz.—"For the continuation of the Cumberland Road, \$100,000; which shall be replaced out of the fund reserved for laying out and making roads, under the direction of Congress, by the several acts passed for the admission of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri into the Union," &c. Gen. Harrison voted against striking out. The same day Mr. Van Buren voted for striking out of the bill, an appropriation of \$50,000, for the above purpose. Gen. Harrison voted against it.

In Senate, April 22. A bill was passed authorizing a "subscription for stock in the Louisville and Portland Canal Company." Yeas 20—Nays 15. Gen. Harrison voting for, and Mr. Van Buren against the subscription. Senate journal, page 260.

May 10, Gen. Harrison voted for a bill "to grant a certain quantity of land to the State of Illinois, for the purpose of aiding in opening a canal to connect the waters of the Illinois with those of Lake Michigan." Mr. Van Buren voted against the grant. See journal of the Senate, page 317.

On the 13th of February, 1827, "the Senate resumed, in committee of the whole, the bill to grant a certain quantity of land to the State of Indiana, for the purpose of aiding said State in opening a canal to connect the waters of the Wabash river with those of Lake Erie." "On the question, shall this bill pass? it was decided in the affirmative, by a vote of 28 to 14." Page 179 of Senate journal. Gen. Harrison, Benton, &c. voting for it. Martin Van Buren did not.

Again: Feb. 17, of the same year, on motion of Mr. Hendricks, of Indiana, "the Senate resumed, as in committee of the whole, a bill to authorize a subscription of stock, on the part of the United States, in the Columbus and Sandusky Turnpike Company." "On the question, shall the bill be engrossed and read the third time? it was decided by yeas, 27—nays 18." Gen. Harrison voted for the appropriation—Mr. Van Buren against it. See journal, page 196.

On the 27th of Feb., the Senate passed a bill "making appropriations for the military service of the United States, for the year 1827." Mr. Van Buren voted to strike out the following words, from the first section of that bill, viz—"For constructing the road from Canton to Zanesville, in the State of Ohio, and for continuing and completing the survey of the Cumberland road from Zanesville to the seat of Government of Missouri, \$170,000; which shall be replaced out of the fund reserved for laying out and making roads under the direction of Congress, by the several acts passed for the admission of the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri, into the Union, on an equal footing with the original States." Gen. Harrison voted for retaining the clause—so did Messrs. Benton, Eaton, Hendricks, Johnson of Kentucky, King of Alabama, and every Senator from the West and Southwest. There were 15 for striking out, headed by Mr. Van Buren, always inimical to Western interests; and 27 against.

On the same day, Mr. Van Buren voted against an appropriation to defray the incidental expenses of these surveys, of \$30,000; and Gen. Harrison for it.

On the 1st of March, 1827, a bill for the preservation and repair of the Cumberland road, passed the Senate, yeas, 22—nays, 16; Mr. Van Buren, according to his consistent abhorrence of internal improvements, voting against the act; Gen. Harrison, the undeviating friend of Western interests, voting for it.



*Mr. Van Buren's votes in Senate, on the Cumberland Road,*

The following extracts from the Senate journal, speak for themselves. And we recommend them especially to the attention of the citizens of Alabama, Mississippi, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri, as good and efficient reasons to induce them to give their votes for Martin Van Buren for President. Examine them well, read and reflect, and see how will these votes agree with your interests.—*United States Telegraph*.

January 28, 1828. The Senate took up, as in committee of the whole, the bill making appropriation for the construction of the Cumberland road from Bridgeport to Zanesville, in the State of Ohio, and for continuing and completing the surveys of the Cumberland road from Zanesville to the seat of Government in the State of Missouri; and no amendment having been made thereto, it was reported to the Senate; and on the question, shall this bill be engrossed and read a third time? it passed in the affirmative—yeas, 25—nays, 18; Mr. Van Buren voting against the bill.

April 10, 1828. The Senate having under consideration, as in committee of the whole, the bill entitled "An act making appropriations for internal improvements, as amended;" on the question to agree to the fifth amendment, as follows: "Strike out of the first section the following words: 'For the completion of the Cumberland road, continued to Zanesville, in the State of Ohio, \$175,000; which said sum of money shall be replaced from the fund reserved for laying out and making roads, under the direction of Congress, by the several acts passed for the admission of the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri, into the Union, on an equal footing with the original States;'" it was determined in the negative—yeas, 18—nays, 29; Mr. Van Buren voting in the affirmative.

April 22, 1828. The Senate resumed, as in committee of the whole, the bill for the continuation of the Cumberland road, together with the amendments reported thereto, by the select committee on Roads and Canals; the said amendments having been agreed to, the bill was reported to the Senate; and the amendments having been concurred in, on the question, Shall the bill be engrossed and read a third time? it was determined in the affirmative—yeas, 26—nays, 15; Mr. Van Buren voting in the negative.

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One of the most prominent of the charges which were brought against the Administration of Mr. Adams, and which was most vehemently urged by his opponents, as a reason for a change in our rulers, was the pretended extravagance of the public expenditures. By contrasting the following statement of the annual amount of the expenditures of the Government during the four years of Mr. Adams' Administration, with those of the eight years of Gen. Jackson, and the three years which have already elapsed, of Mr. Van Buren's, the voters of the country can at once determine against whom the charge of extravagance should rest.

### OFFICIAL.

**PUBLIC EXPENDITURE FROM 1824 TO 1838.**—*Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting a statement of expenditure, exclusive of the public debt, for each year, from 1824 to 1838.*

JUNE 28, 1838.—Read and laid upon the table.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, }  
June 27, 1838. }

SIR—In obedience to the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 25th instant, I have the honor to "lay before the House a statement showing the amount of expenditure, *exclusive of the public debt*, for each year, from 1824 to 1838."

I am very respectfully your obedient servant,

LEVI WOODBURY,  
Secretary of the Treasury.

HON. J. K. POLK, *Speaker of the House of Representatives.*



Statement showing the amount of expenditures of the United States, exclusive of the public debt, for each year, from 1824 to 1837 inclusive, stated in pursuance of a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 25th June, 1838.

For the year 1824,	\$15,330,144 71
Do 1825,	11,490,459 94
Do 1826,	13,062,316 27
Do 1827,	12,653,095 65
Do 1828,	13,296,041 45
Do 1829,	12,660,460 62
Do 1830,	13,229,533 33
Do 1831,	13,864,067 90
Do 1832,	16,516,688 77
Do 1833,	22,713,755 11
Do 1834,	18,425,417 25
Do 1835,	17,514,850 28
Do 1836,	30,868,164 04
Do 1837,	*39,164,745 37

NOTE.—The foregoing sums include payments for trust funds and indemnities, which, 1837, was \$5,610,404 36.

T. L. SMITH, *Register*.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

*Register's Office, June 27, 1838.*

\*This sum is subject to small variation on the settlement of the accounts of the Treasurer.

*Note by the Publisher from Public Documents.*

Mr. Van Buren's 3 years, 1837,	\$39,164,745
1838,	40,427,218
1839,	31,815,000

*Total,* 111,406,963

Average each year, \$37,135,654 33

### *Unofficial.*

Contrast the expenditures of the Government under the present with those of former Administrations; then read the following, and reflect before you vote!!!!!!!

The following are literal extracts from the report of the Secretary of War, and the message of the President of the United States, on the subject of the increase of the Army of the United States:

"It is proposed to divide the United States into eight military districts, and to organize the militia in each district, so as to have a body of twelve thousand five hundred men in active service, and another of equal number as a reserve. This would give an armed militia force of two hundred thousand men, so drilled and stationed as to be ready to take their places in the ranks in defence of their country whenever called upon to oppose the enemy or repel the invader. The age of the recruit to be from twenty to thirty-seven; the whole time of service to be eight years—four years in the first class, and four in the reserve; one-fourth part, twenty-five thousand men, to leave the service every year, passing, at the conclusion of the first term, into the reserve, and exempted from ordinary militia duty altogether at the end of the second. In this manner, twenty-five thousand men will be discharged from militia duty every year, and twenty-five thousand fresh recruits be received into the service. It will be sufficient for all useful purposes, that the remainder of the militia, under certain regulations provided for their government, be enrolled and be mustered at long and stated intervals; for, in due process of time, nearly the whole mass of the militia will pass through the first and second classes, and be either members of the ac-

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APPENDIX.

tive corps, or of the reserve, or counted among the exempts, who will be liable to be called upon only in periods of invasion or imminent peril. The manner of enrolment, the number of days of service, and the rate of compensation, ought to be fixed by law; but the details had better be left subject to regulation—a plan of which I am prepared to submit to you.”

Here is the endorsement of this monstrous project by Mr. Van Buren, in his last annual message :

“ The present condition of the defences of our principal seaports and navy yards, as represented by the accompanying report of the Secretary of War, calls for the early and serious attention of Congress; and, as connecting itself intimately with this subject, I cannot recommend too strongly to your consideration the plan submitted by that officer for the organization of the militia of the United States.”

The following is the 17th section of the plan of details proposed by the Secretary of War for the organization of the militia of the United States, thus recommended by Mr. Van Buren—by which the power is to be given to the President to assemble such numbers, at such places, and at such times, within their respective districts, as he may deem necessary—not exceeding twice in one year. The people are required, if called on, to perform military duty beyond the limits of their own States, at the will of the President, there being only eight districts in the Union, and consequently several States in a district.

We have only to call your attention to the universal prediction made in 1833, at the time of the removal of the depositories, and reiterated down to the present time, viz: *That when the Federal Executive obtained unlimited control over the public purse, the next step would be to raise a standing army.*

Here it is in its full proportions!!!

The next step towards the downfall of this republic, under the false garb of democracy, we leave you to conjecture. In the mean time, you are entreated to pause before you strike this last fatal blow at the liberties of your country.

“17. That the President of the United States be authorized to call forth and assemble such numbers of the active force of the militia, at such places within their respective districts, and at such times, not exceeding twice, nor — days in the same year, as he may deem necessary; and during such period, including the time when going to and returning from the place of rendezvous, they shall be deemed in the service of the United States, and be subject to such regulations as the President may think proper to adopt for their instruction, discipline, and improvement in military knowledge.”

We, the undersigned, hereby certify that the above extracts are true copies from the reports of the Secretary of War, and from the message of the President of the United States.

R. GARLAND, of Louisiana,  
JOHN BELL, of Tennessee,  
JOHN M. BOTTS, of Virginia,  
THOS. CORWIN, of Ohio,  
M. H. GRINNELL, of New York,  
J. C. CLARK, of New York,  
LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, of Mass.,  
TRUMAN SMITH, of Connecticut,  
Executive Committee.

April 18, 1840.

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CHARLES SCOTT, PRINTER,  
Columbus, O., 1840.

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